



# Jordan Times

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## Jordan backs PLO on self-rule deadline

AMMAN (R) — Jordan Wednesday backed the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) demand that the Palestinian self-rule agreement with Israel be implemented as planned on Dec. 13. Any delay would be a setback to the Middle East peace process and back peace, a senior Jordanian official said. "Dec. 13 is an important landmark because it signals the start of an Israeli military withdrawal from certain occupied territories," he said. "The materialisation of that specific action on the set date means the peace process has transformed itself into a reality on the ground," added the official, who requested anonymity. "If it fails, it will only encourage opponents of peace to have an opportunity to frustrate peace and the cycle of violence will increase." Under the Israel-PLO accord signed in Washington in September, Israeli troops should start withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho next Monday. Israel has said the pullout might be postponed but PLO leader Yasser Arafat insists the start date is "sacred."

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# Simple majority for Majali in Parliament

41 deputies back government and 29 oppose it in galvanising vote of confidence; 9 abstain and one absent in 80-seat House

Premier, in victory speech, says debate of past four days is real testimony to Jordan's democracy

King congratulates Majali, urges lawmakers to seek objectivity

By Ayman Al Safadi  
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday won a vote of confidence from the Lower House of Parliament with 41 deputies voting in its favour, 29 opposing it, nine abstaining and one absent.

The vote came at the end of a four-day session, which Dr. Majali described as "good, helpful and a gain for democracy."

Striking a conciliatory note with members of the House who pelleted the government with criticism over what many called its "undemocratic" practices, Dr. Majali thanked all deputies for their speeches and pledged to work with them in close cooperation for the interests of the country.

"Our reaction (to the speeches) would be marked with objectivity that derives from the interests of the country and its objectives," Dr. Majali said after he won the confidence of the House. "We promise you to be... one hand in service of the country and its causes... I thank all those who withheld confidence, abstained or voted (for me)," said Dr. Majali.

"The government believes in democracy and works to consolidate it... it is our national choice which Jordan has adopted as a style of government and a way of life," Dr. Majali earlier told the deputies while reading the government's response to their speeches.

Expressing respect for the legislature and recognition of its role, Dr. Majali said that the government will not take any major decisions without consulting with the legislative authorities.

In almost a two-hour-long speech, the prime minister defended his Cabinet against all the charges levelled against it by opposition deputies during the session, responding to nearly all the issues they raised.

Dr. Majali said adopting the Speech from the Throne as a policy statement was a constitutional obligation, the dissolution of the 11th Parliament was legal and justified and the change in the Election Law was affected after a national dialogue and in response to popular demands.

Dr. Majali also rejected



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday addresses the Lower House of Parliament (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

In reply to deputies' speeches, Majali defends policies, justifies constitutional steps and pledges to work closely with legislature

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday expressed his full confidence in Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and his Cabinet and congratulated him on winning the vote of confidence in Parliament.

"I wish full success for the Cabinet in serving the country and its people," the King said in a message he sent to Dr. Majali, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The King, who left for London late Wednesday, also urged Dr. Majali to "bolster democracy and deepen its roots in our society because it is our irreversible choice, which requires bridges of confidence between the legislative

and executive authorities and objective dialogue."

In another message he sent to Lower House Speaker Taher Al Masri in which he urged parliamentarians to "seek objectivity, truth and credibility in all actions and higher national interests above all other considerations."

The King told Speaker Masri that "free Jordanians have, with full awareness, chosen the best of people to represent them in Parliament over others who had loud voices only."

The King said that in future he would leave it to prime ministers to read the traditional Speech from the Throne at the opening of Parliament since it is a government state-

ment and "I have always delivered the speech out of respect for both the government and Parliament."

Petra said the King later left Amman for Britain on a several day private visit. The King was seen off by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, members of the royal family, Prime Minister Majali, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and other senior officials.

Crown Prince Hassan was sworn to serve as Regent during the King's absence.

The King is accompanied by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

## Deputies heap harsh criticism as well as praise on Cabinet

By Suhair Obeldat  
 Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Lower House Wednesday ended a four-day marathon vote of confidence session during which 76 deputies took the floor and alternately praised and harshly criticised the government on issues ranging from the Nov. 8 elections, the recent government reshuffle, the peace process, economic reform, pover-

ty and unemployment, as well as demands related to specific districts.

Fifteen deputies took the podium Wednesday, with tension rising and the galleries filling by the hour in expectation of the vote of confidence, which took place after Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali delivered the government's response to the deputies' speeches at little before 9:00 p.m.

The government came under fire for introducing the one-person, one-vote formula to the Election Law, dissolving the 11th Parliament, alleged interference in the elections and favouritism in appointing ministers and senior officials.

Some deputies praised the government's integrity and expressed confidence in its ability to handle future challenges.

## Iraq executes Jordanian for spying

AMMAN (AFP) — A Jordanian convicted of spying for Kuwait was executed in Iraq last month, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. The Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad said in a telegram to the foreign ministry here that 39-year-old Imam Hassan Hamadeh, a Jordanian of Palestinian origin, was executed on Nov. 3. The ambassador said he was told the Iraqi Foreign Ministry that Mr. Hamadeh had "confessed to providing Kuwait with economic and security information about Iraq," according to a copy of the telegram obtained by AFP. Mr. Hamadeh's body was being kept in the Rashid hospital in Baghdad until his family decided where to bury him, it said. Mr. Hamadeh, born in Nabulus in the West Bank, had studied at the University of Basra in southern Iraq and used to make frequent trips to Iraq where he had a business partner, his family said.

## Israel, PLO swap drafts

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel exchanged draft agreements of their visions for Palestinian autonomy Wednesday in a move to speed up talks on Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho in the West Bank.

The chief negotiators, the PLO's Nabil Shaath and Israeli Major General Amnon Shahak, exchanged the documents as subcommittees on security and civil administration held a fourth day of talks in Cairo and the Egyptian resort of El Arish.

It looked increasingly unlikely the two sides would meet a deadline next Monday for Israel to begin its withdrawal as outlined in the PLO-Israel accord signed in Washington on Sept. 13.

But the negotiators say they are still trying. It also appeared gestures could be used to lessen the impact of a missed deadline while opponents of the talks on both sides were stepping up violence in the occupied territories.

Israeli spokesman Ami Giuska told the Associated Press that said the exchange of drafts was aimed at moving to "a bottom line discussion" although the two sides still disagree on many details.

"The intention is to cut short the process, to try to conduct the negotiations on the basis of a draft agreement," he said.

Dr. Shaath said earlier this week that the idea was to "move from item-by-item negotiations into the exchanging of full drafts because we're

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A Palestinian woman gestures as an Israeli soldier searched her home in Bethlehem (AFP photo)

## Rabin fortifies occupied lands as violence continues unabated

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The peace process, which is supposed to produce the start of an Israeli troop withdrawal from occupied territories next week, resembled a military buildup Wednesday as reinforcements were sent to try to stem the daily attacks jeopardising the autonomy accord.

The latest incidents included the shooting of a Jewish settler in Bethlehem and a series of demonstrations in Jerusalem.

Officials signalled it may take another summit between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat early next week to smooth the way to activating the accord.

Police fired teargas to break up angry protests in Jerusalem Wednesday after a Palestinian shot a Jewish settler, as Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the army was doing its utmost to protect Israelis.

A man seriously wounded the settler and six Arabs were also shot as the army poured in extra troops to keep the lid on violence in the occupied territories.

Hundreds of Jews demonstrated in the ultra-orthodox Mea Shearim district, setting

fire to tyres and garbage cans. They called for Mr. Rabin's ouster for failing to defend settlers.

Police firing teargas and wielding batons intervened to shove the demonstrators off the roads and clear a massive traffic jam, but they made no arrests.

In the Old City of Jerusalem, one Palestinian was injured when settlers scuffled with Palestinians while border guards stood by.

Trouble erupted when 50 right-wing Kach members shouted anti-Arab slogans from a synagogue, prompting Palestinians to take to the streets with flags and cries of "Palestine is Arab."

Also in East Jerusalem, 50 backers of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which is opposed to the autonomy accord, marched through the streets before being dispersed by border guards firing teargas.

In the West Bank, military sources said a Palestinian armed with a pistol shot the settler in the stomach at point-blank range near Bethlehem.

A curfew was slapped on the nearby Aida refugee camp, where the assailant fled with an

accomplice, the army said. It added that a soldier came under fire near Beqat settlement but was not hit.

The PFLP claimed the Bethlehem attack.

"We carried out the operation to mark the PFLP's birth 26 years ago and to stress that the armed struggle must go on until the Zionist invaders have left our land," it said.

Troops shot and wounded four schoolchildren in the southern Gaza town of Rafah after being pelted with stones. Two other Palestinians were wounded by settlers who fired at their car near the Gush Katif.

Mr. Rabin, who has poured troop reinforcements into the West Bank in an attempt to end the wave of violence, disclosed Israel has about 14,000 soldiers there and in Gaza.

He gave details of troop strength — usually a top military secret — in an annual speech to Israeli newspaper editors in which he said violence would not deter him from implementing the Israel-PLO deal.

"There are 120 platoons, and sometimes more, serving in the territories, protecting the Israeli settlers and settlements," Mr. Rabin said.

## Arafat proposes 'shared Jerusalem'

BONN (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat called Wednesday for a shared Jerusalem common to Israelis and Palestinians, and rejected any Berlin-like division of the city.

He said that Jews and Palestinians had lived alongside each other for centuries, and that the city should be "the common capital of two states," Israeli and Palestinian.

Mr. Arafat, speaking during a first official visit to Germany, said Jerusalem was a city of religious "tolerance and co-existence," but that there was "a political problem."

Israeli leaders have insisted that Jerusalem must remain "the undivided capital of Israel," and have refused to contemplate negotiations over the status of Arab East Jerusalem which they "annexed" in 1967.

Asked about this "non-negotiable" status, reiterated in Bonn last week by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Mr. Arafat replied that "Rabin speaks of his Jerusalem. I am speaking of mine, the one that was occupied in 1967."

He said that the Palestinians wanted an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 242.

He also repeated that for him the Dec. 13 deadline for Israeli withdrawal from the

Gaza Strip and Jericho, as agreed in the Washington Middle East peace accords between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel in September, was "sacred."

Asked about Palestinian movements such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad opposed to the accord, Mr. Arafat made a distinction between those which had a "Palestinian approach" and those that were influenced from abroad.

He said that, for example, he had asked Israel to release a Hamas leader, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, jailed for life in 1991 accused of ordering the murder of two Israeli soldiers, whom he regarded as an independent.

He was indignant about the violence of Israeli settlers opposed to the peace accords, saying they had "smashed some villages and towns."

Mr. Arafat also urged German industrialists to invest in Palestinian self-ruled areas.

Mr. Arafat said an infrastructure had to be built up in the autonomous areas after years of Israeli occupation.

He said Palestinians wanted to create a free-market economy and needed the know-how and experience of the Germans, who built up their destroyed country after World War II and are restructuring formerly communist East Germany.

## Rantisi suspects PLO ordered killings

MARJ AL ZOUHOUR (AFP) — The spokesman for Palestinian expellees in Lebanon said Wednesday he suspected the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had ordered the killings of opponents of the autonomy accord.

"We wouldn't be surprised if the liquidation of opponents (in the occupied territories) is ordered by the Palestinian parties which signed an accord with Israel," spokesman Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi told reporters here.

## Bhutto visits Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived here Wednesday for a three-day visit to discuss bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues.

Mr. Bhutto, wearing a black chador, was greeted at the airport by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. She was accompanied by her husband Asif Ali Zardari, Foreign Minister Asef Ahmad Ali and Defence Minister Aftab Shahban.

## Self-rule will help calm violence — U.S., Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Wednesday that Palestinian autonomy should be implemented as soon as possible to cool violence in the occupied territories.

"President Mubarak made the fundamental point that implementation of principle is absolutely essential if we want to move forward, bring an end to the violence," Mr. Christopher said.

He agreed with the Egyptian leader that implementation, with the start of an Israeli army withdrawal, would help "show the people that there is improvement taking place on the ground."

However, Mr. Christopher acknowledged there could be a brief delay in the beginning of the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho on the West Bank that is scheduled for Monday.

"If the two parties (Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation — PLO) agree they need a few more days. The U.S. will not have an independent judgement that is adverse," he told a joint news conference after talks with Mr. Mubarak in the Egyptian capital.

"But the sooner they can begin the implementation the better," the secretary added.

Mr. Mubarak hoped the autonomy negotiations, which are taking place in Egypt, could be wrapped up soon and autonomy set in motion, but he also did not insist on the Dec. 13 deadline being met to the exact day.

The U.S. envoy made a brief stop in Egypt on the latest leg of a Middle East mission to inject new impetus into the peace process, which has been shaken by spiralling violence between Palestinian hardliners

(Continued on page 2)

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## Simple majority for Majali in Parliament

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accusations that the government interfered in the Nov. 8 elections, asserting that the executive was neutral and the polls fair and honest.

The government violated no norms by not resigning after conducting the elections, Dr. Majali said, adding that nothing in the Constitution requires his Cabinet to quit and that the designation letter from His Majesty King Hussein mentioned holding the elections as one of the mission which the government had to fulfill.

In their speeches, deputies accused the government of showing disrespect for the legislature, violating the norms by not resigning, and practising nepotism in senior government appointments, among other things.

Dr. Majali said the 11th Parliament was not consulted when the Cabinet was formed because it was not in session, and last week's ministerial change was not discussed with deputies during meetings he held with them because it was not yet decided upon.

"Discussions with deputies (prior to the ministerial change) was meant to explain issues ... and informing the deputies of them," said Dr. Majali.

He said the exclusion of deputies from the Cabinet was required by the higher interests of the country so that deputies will concentrate on legislation. "This is a point of view," he said.

Dr. Majali said the Nov. 8 elections were held in a democratic atmosphere governed by the law. Accordingly, the "elections were free, fair and honest ... and the government remained neutral without allowing any irregularities," said Dr. Majali.

Responding to deputies' assertions that the government unilaterally changed the Election Law against the will of the major political parties and figures and without the national dialogue it had promised, Dr. Majali said the introduction of the one-person, one-vote formula into the electoral process was in accordance with the Constitution that guaranteed equal rights for all citizens. He said the change, which

cancelled the bloc-voting system, came after "a national dialogue with all shades of the political spectrum and in response to a popular wish," adding that the King had endorsed the electoral amendments.

Dr. Majali said the law allowed for contesting the amendments in the Higher Court of Justice but no one protested its constitutionality.

Responding to deputies' demands, Dr. Majali said the government would cooperate with the House to produce a modern election law that corresponds with the "aspirations."

"We reaffirm our commitment to the orientation adopted by the National Charter that ... Islamic Sharia is the main source of legislation," the prime minister said in response to criticism by Islamic deputies who said the policy statement did not say the government would move toward implementing Islam.

Also in response to Islamic Action Front deputies, Dr. Majali said school curricula are being developed by Jordanian experts in keeping with the law, values and traditions of the nation. IAF deputies had warned against altering the school curricula to suit the requirements of the era of normalisation of relations with Israel.

Dr. Majali reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to a just, lasting and comprehensive Middle East peace on the basis of international legitimacy and without compromising any of the country's rights.

"Just and comprehensive peace is what this government is seeking," he said, adding that Jordan is coordinating its stands with other Arab countries and not responsible for the "backward state of the Arab World."

Dr. Majali pointed out the agenda for peace talks with Israel is not a peace treaty and that no such treaty will be reached without the approval of the legislature.

"The government will not adopt any peace treaty without the approval of the House," he said.

He said the Kingdom has protested the Israeli court ruling to assume responsibility of Muslim holy places

in Jerusalem, adding that the Jerusalem Department of Awqaf, which is run by the Ministry of Awqaf, is still in charge of these places.

Dr. Majali said Jordan supported the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel self-rule accord because it includes positive achievements for the Palestinian people whom he said Jordan will continue to support.

Emphasising the importance of national unity and equality among all citizens, Dr. Majali said: "National unity is not a slogan but a belief and practice."

The Cabinet's decentralisation programme, which was attacked by many deputies, was praised by Dr. Majali as an effective way for improving the performance of the government bureaucracy.

Dr. Majali said his government supported demands to elect the mayor and council of Amman, that are currently appointed by the government.

The prime minister outlined an 11-point programme for dealing with the problems of poverty and employment and promised measures to strengthen the agricultural and industrial sector and the investment environment.

He said the government will work to improve the standards of living of public servants and army personnel adding that the government will work out a programme that ensures that subsidised basic goods benefit those who need them.

The prime minister also said the government would work to provide electric, water and other services to areas that lack them.

Though the government has information that enables it to respond to "slandering remarks" made by some deputies, it will not do so in order to protect national interests and democracy, Dr. Majali said.

"We will not respond to personal attacks and violations of the norms of dialogue," said Dr. Majali, who drew applause from deputies who opposed him when he apologised for statements made by some speculators against deputies who withheld bonds.

"I apologise to any brother hurt by words made (by speculators)," said Dr. Majali.

## Qadhafi alerts Libyans to possible attack

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libyan Leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi warned Libyans Tuesday to be "ready to repel a new offensive," Libyan Television said.

In a speech in Tripoli's western suburbs, Col. Qadhafi urged Libyans to be prepared, just as the older generation had "chosen resistance and death against Italian tanks and German battleships" in World War II.

Col. Qadhafi has been touring the country for daily meetings with demonstrators protesting at the decision by the United Nations on Dec. 1 to freeze Libyan assets abroad and to stop deliveries to Libya's petrochemical industry.

The new sanctions are in addition to an air and military embargo imposed in April last year.

They are intended to put pressure on Libya to hand over for two men suspected of bombing a Pan Am flight which exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland in December 1988, killing 270 people and a French UTA airliner that exploded over Niger the following year with the loss of 170 lives.

Libya has refused to hand them over to Britain or the United States on the grounds that they would not get a fair trial, although it has agreed to a trial in a neutral country, probably Switzerland.

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## Canada offers Jordan remote-sensing technology

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaceen  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan is to employ, with the help of Canadian high technology, the use of remote-sensing radar to help it monitor area tectonics and prepare geological surveys.

This was revealed yesterday by the Canadian ambassador to Jordan Andrew Robinson and the general director of the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre, Dr. Oqlah Dhaimat, in a briefing hosted by the centre to celebrate the visit of the GlobeSat remote sensing aircraft.

Dr. Dhaimat explained that the centre was acting as the local project coordinator because of its expertise in the field of geological surveying and because of its extensive geographic information network.

Mr. Robinson described Canada's technological leadership in the field of remote sensing and reiterated that the visit is part of the ongoing technology transfer and skills development programme between Canada and Jordan. He hoped that this project would enhance and extend the warm friendship between the two countries.

The GlobeSat programme is based at the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing in Ottawa, Ontario. GlobeSat, which has already carried out several demonstration flights in Taiwan, China, Thailand, Vietnam and Kenya, carried out such flights yesterday, spanning three

hours, for the purposes of land surveying and data collection over Al Azraq, north and south Amman, Jerash and Petra.

Dr. Vernon Singhroy, project coordinator for Jordan said, the visit, which concludes Friday, also involves supplying the Royal Geographic Centre with the translated results of the survey flights.

The GlobeSat team travels to Tunisia and Morocco next. Dr. Singhroy also explained how the flight is part of a larger project to be crowned in the spring of 1995 with the launch of the Canadian radar satellite (RadarSat) which will scan the earth for the next five years taking data and supplying information every five days in the tropics and every three days elsewhere.

"This satellite will join two other radar satellites from the European Community and Japan," assistant coordinator Robert St. Jean said.

"Some major goals of the project are to monitor environmental pollution, map geological features and area tectonics in the hope of creating a comprehensive land information system. The system has also proven beneficial to hydrology, hydrocarbon exploration and in various other commercial applications," Dr. Singhroy said.

The second technical workshop, introduction to radar and its applications, was also concluded on Sunday. The first such workshop took place early in 1993.

## Singer who killed foreigners attacks guard and injures self

CAIRO (Agencies) — A de-ranked small-time pop singer held in a mental hospital for fatally shooting four foreigners in a luxury hotel's coffee shop attacked a guard Tuesday in an apparent escape attempt, police said.

Subdued and returned to his cell, the man injured himself by banging his head against a wall.

The singer, Saber Farhat Abu Al Ala, was not thought to be seriously wounded, a police spokesman said, speaking anonymously under usual departmental practice.

Mr. Abu Al Ala has been incarcerated in the mental hospital in suburban Abbasya since shortly after his shooting rampage on Oct. 26 in a coffee shop of Cairo's swank Semiramis Inter-Continental Hotel.

Witnesses said Mr. Abu Al Ala shouted "Allahu Akbar" as he opened fire with a handgun. Two Americans and a Frenchman died at the scene. An official of the Italian Justice Ministry succumbed to his injuries after being flown home to Italy.

The police spokesman said Tuesday's incident began when Mr. Abu Al Ala asked police guard Mohammed Helmi Ali to let him leave his cell to go to the toilet. The guard complied and escorted the prisoner, but Mr. Abu Al Ala turned on Ali and began beating him. Responding to the policeman's cries for help, hospital personnel restrained the patient, police said.

Left alone in his cell, the police spokesman said, Mr. Abu Al Ala smashed his head repeatedly against the concrete wall. Staff again curbed his outburst and hospitalised him for treatment of cuts on his skull. His condition was not considered serious.

Mr. Abu Al Ala, 28, reportedly told interrogators he shot up the Semiramis cafe to avenge the terror done to Bosnian Muslims, the deaths of children, rapes of women, destruction of mosques.

Government spokesmen repeatedly have denied links between him and Muslim extremists whose anti-government violence, and police counter-violence, have killed more than 240 people since early 1992.

But Mr. Abu Al Ala's parents said on national television the night after the shooting episode that he had spent time in recent months in Dairut, a town in southern Egypt that has been under nighttime curfew for months because of extremist violence.

The worst single incident of the escalated violence occurred in May 1992 in fields outside Dairut, the slaughter by Islamic radicals of 13 Christian farmers and a Muslim who helped them.

Gunmen kill policeman

Gunmen shot dead a policeman Tuesday in the Nag Hammadi area of southern Egypt, and elsewhere more than 200 suspected fundamentalists were arrested, police said.

Mohammed Mahmud Abu Ala was killed on his way to work in Nag Hammadi, 580 kilometres south of Cairo, by suspected militants who managed to flee the scene.

His death brought to 78 the number of policemen killed since militants stepped up their attacks in March 1992 aimed at toppling the secular government of President Hosni Mubarak.

In Assiut province in southern Egypt security forces arrested 183 militants who were preparing a demonstration over the arrest of 39 other militants Monday in the Al Rahma Mosque in Assiut, police said.

The mosque is regarded as a stronghold of the outlawed fundamentalist group Al Gama Al Islamiyyah.

Three fundamentalists were injured during the arrests, police said.

Police entered the mosque firing teargas, after they had sealed off all the nearby streets.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Weapons seized from Kuwaiti civilians

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The Kuwaiti authorities have seized thousands of weapons from civilians, including 31 surface-to-air missiles and anti-tank rockets, which were left behind by Iraqi troops in the Gulf war, the Kuwaiti Interior Minister said Tuesday. Sheikh Ahmad H'moud Al Sabah told parliament Tuesday the arms were seized by a special task force which began work in late 1992, after a deadline had expired for the voluntary surrender of weapons. Sheikh Ahmad said the 13,000 weapons, seized in 28 residential areas, also included six anti-aircraft guns, hand-grenades, shells, detonators and nearly 5,000 assault rifles. Acting Parliament Speaker Salah Al Fadhalah suspended the decree authorising the seizures by the task force until the next full session of parliament, set for late December, following a complaint from a deputy about the way the weapons were confiscated.

### Khamenei for limited Iran-Egypt thaw

NICOSIA (R) — Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has authorised the Iranian government to seek a limited improvement in icy relations with Egypt, Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri was quoted as saying Tuesday. This could overturn a 1979 decree by Ayatollah Khamenei's predecessor, the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, which cut diplomatic ties with Egypt in response to Cairo's peace deal with Israel. Mr. Nateq-Nouri, quoted by Tehran's Salam newspaper, said Iran's Supreme National Security Council headed by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani agreed in a discussion that relations with Egypt should be restored. "This was relayed to the exalted leader (Khamenei). He said it was not expedient. Recently when the matter was raised again, he issued a permission on a particular level," he said without elaborating. He was speaking in the southwestern city of Ahvaz. Mr. Nateq-Nouri's statement follows remarks by Mr. Rafsanjani who told Egypt's veteran journalist Mohammad Heikal in an interview last month that Iran and Egypt should have a dialogue.

### U.S. battle group heads for Gulf

DUBAI (R) — A U.S. Navy battle group led by the aircraft carrier Independence headed for the Gulf Tuesday to enforce U.S. air patrols over southern Iraq, a U.S. navy spokesman said. U.S. carrier-based aircraft have not patrolled the southern marsh regions of Iraq since early October because carriers were diverted from the Gulf to Somalia. The Independence and its battle group left Singapore on Monday and were expected in the Gulf soon. U.S. Central Command Navy spokesman Lieutenant Commander Bruce Cole told Reuters. It comprises of the nuclear submarine Helena, one cruiser, two frigates, an ammunition ship and an oiler. It replaces the aircraft carrier America's group, which left Somalia on Sunday for the Mediterranean Sea.

## OAU mini-summit launches peace project

CAIRO (AP) — Leaders of 11 African nations urged Tuesday that two Libyan suspects in the bombing of a Pan Am Jumbo jet be tried in a neutral country, supporting Libya's position in its conflict with the west.

Salem Ahmad Salem, secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), said leaders attending a so-called OAU mini-summit also agreed on a peacekeeping agency to solve disputes on the continent when requested by concerned parties.

Mr. Salem said the agency's first job will be to send 180 soldiers and 20 civilians to Burundi before New Year's Day to shield government leaders, and encourage dialogue among warring factions. The mini-summit's final communiqué said the African leaders discussed at Tripoli's request Libya's conflict with the United States, Britain and France and urged a peaceful settlement for the dispute.

The three countries pushed through last month a U.N. Security Council resolution tightening sanctions to punish Libya for refusing to surrender for trial in the United States or Britain two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. The attack killed 270 people.

The African leaders "called for a fair trial for the suspects to be carried in a neutral country," the statement said. Libya's offer to send the men to trial in any country other than the United States or Scotland has been rejected repeatedly by the Security Council.

Mr. Salem said the African leaders also discussed the turmoil in Somalia, which he said is not the responsibility of the OAU alone but of the international community.

He praised Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi's efforts to "hold an agreement among more than a dozen Somali factions and emphasised that attempts to solve the Somali conflict must be based on national reconciliation."

Mr. Zenawi has convened a peace conference of Somalia's warring clans in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa.

"Africa should speak in one voice in order to reach a solution," the summit statement said. That way, it said, the Somali factions would not misinterpret Mr. Zenawi's initiative.

The United Nations now has a U.S.-led peacekeeping and relief force in Somalia. The United States plans to withdraw all its forces by March 31. Most other participants are awaiting the outcome of the conference in Addis Ababa to determine whether to stay.

The OAU summit also urged peaceful settlements for conflicts in Angola, Liberia and Niger and expressed support for the OAU efforts to bring them about.

According to Mr. Salem, the peacekeeping fund would be supported by five per cent of the OAU's budget and donations from African states and sources outside the continent. He said, however, "should be unconditional."

Mr. Salem added that the new mechanism for solving inter-African conflicts will have no permanent standing army but will depend on the African countries' peacekeeping experience.

The countries attending the meeting are Egypt, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Ghana, Djibouti, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Angola and Niger.

## Deputies heap criticism and praise on Cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

Mifleh Ruheimi (Jerash), who was the first to speak Wednesday, refused allegations by some deputies that the government includes among its ranks members of Al Abd Party, the founder of which is Karak Deputy Abdul Hadi Majali, the premier's brother. "Me and my colleagues in Al Abd Party had hoped that the Cabinet would include a minister representing us, but the party was excluded," Mr. Ruheimi said.

Ibrahim Zeid Keilani (Amman Third District), a prominent member of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), joined by other front members and independents like Saleh Irsheidat (Irbid), a former minister of youth, criticised the premier for not consulting the deputies

before announcing his government reshuffle.

Dr. Keilani and Karak Deputy Nazeem Ammarin claimed that Dr. Majali did not appoint the right person at the right post and that personal affiliations predominate the shape of the new Cabinet.

Mansour Ben Tareef (Karak) focused his speech on the economy in general and the agricultural sector in particular, requesting a unified source for agricultural loans.

Fifteen deputies presented a petition to the prime minister requesting that the interest on agricultural loans be written off, the debts rescheduled for a period not less than 10 years, the farmers be given a three-year grace period, loans less than JD 10,000 be forgiven and that all the above be included in the 1994 budget.

Some of the deputies who signed the petition conditioned their signature to the application of the above to the small farmers.

Suleiman Al Saed (Jerash) attacked what he described as the government's non-Islamic policies in education, media and culture, calling for more adherence to the codes of Sharia in school curricula.

Islamic Deputy Abdul Mun'em Abu Zant, a fiery orator and a popular figure since the 1989 elections, set the audience roaring in laughter several times with cynical remarks.

Mohammad Owaida, (IAF, Balqa) first refused to speak until the television cameras covering the event be removed. But his request was denied by Speaker Taher Masri and he went ahead.

An announcement of renewed Syrian-Israeli talks was expected in Damascus on



## Suspected killer turns himself in

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 28-year-old man turned himself Wednesday to the Karak police and confessed to the killing of a 30-year-old man "by mistake" thinking he was his uncle's killer, according to a police report.

On Tuesday evening, police received a call from Y.A.A. in Al Teybeh area, near Karak, informing them that he had found the body of a 30-year-old man, identified by police only as S.S.S.

When the police arrived at the scene of crime, they found the body of the victim with eight empty pistol shells nearby. Preliminary investigations by the Karak police indicate that A.A.A., acting on a tip, went to where his uncle's presumed killer was living: a tent in Sar-mouge area in Karak.

A.A.A. told the police he went to the tent where the victim was staying and called him by his first name.

The man, incidentally having the same name, answered back and the suspect fired eight shots at him. One bullet hit him in the head and caused his instant death, police said.

The suspect told police he decided to surrender himself after learning from his brother that he had killed the wrong man.

## Specialist to review continuing medical education

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian-French Medical Association Thursday and Friday will hold the third French-Jordanian Medical Congress, which this year will focus on continuing medical education. Specialists from France and Jordan will participate at this two-day congress, which is designed to expose the experiences of different countries in the world and possible benefit for Jordan from those experiences. The subject of continuing medical education was selected because of its importance to general practitioners, and all specialists, and because of an increasing interest in developing this education in the public and private sector. The Jordan-French Medical Association was formed in 1991, on the initiative of Jordanian doctors who graduated from France. A sister association exists in France.

## Deputies conclude assessment of government policy statement

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lower House of Parliament deputies Wednesday concluded their debate over a vote of confidence for the government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali. Following are excerpts from the statements of deputies who spoke in Wednesday's session and others from Tuesday that the Jordan Times could not publish yesterday:



Awad Khleifat  
Maan District (I)

I defer my decision about confidence in the government until I hear the prime minister replies to the demands and questions of the deputies.

To begin with I have to point out that one should not confuse allegiance to the King with support or opposition to the government. At the same time, opposing the government should not be interpreted as an opposition to the regime. I believe that opposition when coupled with sound advice to the government is patriotic deed and is in support of the regime provided it aims at upholding the higher national interests.

I would like to point out that with regard to cooperation between the Executive and Legislative authorities, everything is not going well. The present government which was formed last May was mandated to organize the election but despite the fact that it reached the end of this task it continued in office.

I had hoped that at least, the government should not have provoked the previous parliament members by dissolving the House in violation of parliamentary norms.

This was an unprecedented action that damaged democracy and harmed the spirit of cooperation between the two authorities. The government also passed the amendment to the election law which proved impractical and unrealistic. Indeed the new law created an atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust revolving around the real intentions of the government, and caused a split within the Jordanian community. It helped to deepen divisions and fostered sectarianism.

I believe that election procedures should be revised and modernized to be more flexible and clear for all citizens. In discussing the question of cooperation between the Executive and Legislative authorities I remember a group of independent deputies meeting with the premier to ask him to maintain close dialogue with parliament members and to form a strong political government that can handle the serious issues at hand. The premier replied that he was not begging for confidence from anyone and went on to reshuffle the government without consulting with parliament.

We do not know if the present government is political or technocrat. If it is technocrat in nature why should a doctor be given the portfolio of public works or post and communications and why does the government choose an expert in economics to be in charge of information and national guidance at a time when Jordan is facing a serious stage in its history.

The prime minister maintains that the two authorities should be separated but we see that some members of the Senate are also members of the present government.

Saleh Sha'awateh

(Irbid District) (PDC)

Is this government capable of implementing the promises of prosperity, justice and equality as we hope?

Will the (one-person-one-vote) law and the dissolution of Parliament be the right government to guard democracy?

Will the government which supervised the elections, where some people voted more than once and others could not vote because of administrative complications, be the government

that will protect the law, spread justice and equality and respect pluralism?

Many institutions are closing their doors to people for unjustified reasons to a degree that an applicant for a job is asked about the birthplace of the grandfather.

So are there any plans for this government to stop these practices?

Under the prime minister's presidency of the University of Jordan, an exceptional acceptance system has become a regular practice. So is this government able to cancel what other governments have perpetuated?

I demand the implementation of the previous House decision that all staff of public health sectors be treated equally. Can the government implement that?

Is this government capable of bringing about a qualitative step in the transport sector after the Public Transport Corporation lost its role of guaranteeing the public an adequate transport medium at a reasonable cost?

We were and we still are dreaming of a government that will respect the Constitution and pledge not to go around its script.

Is this the government or will the programme of this government be within the frame of hopes and wishes?



Abdul Rahim Ekour  
Irbid District (IAF)

The people look at us with hope. They hope we will be up to their expectations. They want us to devise plans and prosperity in all fields.

They want us to deliver them from the dangers of the Zionist octopus that occupies our land and from the crusaders represented by the rhinoceros, the U.S. and its agents.

The government failed to produce its own programme of action and chose to hide behind the King's Speech from the Throne.

I can only look at the government programme in contrast with my own on which I gained the confidence of people.

The government has been formed and reshuffled in violation of the basic principles of democracy. It was formed while the previous House was in recess.

At that time the prime minister did not even bother to make a courtesy visit to the House of Deputies. Above that he chose to dissolve the House without warning. Even the Speaker of the House of the heard decision from his staff at the end of the day.

The government dissolved the House without giving a reason which points to its ill intentions towards democracy. It then legislated a new temporary law for elections without consultations with any of the political or popular forces in the country. It did not keep its promise of conducting a national dialogue on the issue as it has claimed it had done.

That despite warnings from veteran political leaders on all levels. It acted with a military mentality by issuing a law that violently violated our national unity and tore deep into our social fabric in a manner that widened sectarianism, racism and regionalism.

This country has reached a high level of freedom and democracy that, despite the fact that it remains below our aspirations is pleasing friends and annoying foes. We had hoped our government would bolster this and improve the process by enhancing the protection of freedoms. Instead, we were surprised to see the government arrest people whose integrity cannot be doubted.

Yet, dear colleagues, I think the catastrophe is not the presence of a tyrant government but our failure, as people's representatives, to hold it accountable.

This government has appointed ministers' secretary generals, governors, and local governors, presumably putting the right man in the right place. But this was not the case. These appointments were designed to serve the prime minister or the government's

favorite political party.

As for the peace settlement, I as a Muslim cannot have peace with those who occupied the land, oppressed the people and violated the sacred.

Reconciliation with the Jews, I believe, violates the Kuran and the Sunna (Islamic tradition).

The master of this country has repeatedly called, and from this podium, for progress towards Islam. So where is the government programme towards this end? I call on the government to formulate plans for our progress in that direction; towards Islam by spreading virtue and fighting vice. That should start by putting school curricula on the right track and directing the media towards the service of the nation.

I want to stress again that what the government has done so far, which is a flagrant aggression on democracy and Shura, is only a sample of things yet to come.

At last, I want to ask the government: What is its stand towards soaring prices? What does it say about the disappearance of medicines from government hospitals and clinics? What is its stand regarding the low level of salaries? Of unemployment? Of corruption? Of high university fees?

I hope to hear answers in front of people and nation.



Abdul Karim Dughmi  
Mafrqa District (PDC)

The first thing that comes to my mind when discussing the policy statement of any government is not the statement itself but what is more important in my opinion is how close or far is that government from the democratic march which we, and our leadership, have opted for.

The closer this government comes to democracy, the closer I feel towards it and the more my respect for it increases. In fact I would adopt its views and explain them to my constituency.

The further this government moves from democracy, the more I would feel that dangers face our country and our people because I believe that we have no security in this country and no life without democracy.

Opposition, as one of my friends has already mentioned, costs its bearer dearly, and I do not support those who feel that opposition is an easy task, for opposition has sent one of our country's national figures to jail unfairly, not for any reason except that he was a strong opposer. And I do not want to elaborate in his subject, which is well known to everyone, but I am one of those who lived with him during the difficult days and had the honour of defending him and I used to watch the fabrications against him. Because of what I said I will use as my yardstick, democracy, I will balance this government against this slogan.

This government did not consult with the 11th Parliament before dissolving it and changing the Election Law. And someone may say that why should they consult since most of the former deputies were about to run for elections and the government itself was only a temporary one?

Because the premier refused to admit that his government was only a temporary one. The premier appeared also to have decided on a position towards the Parliament as a whole, since he formed his government with only one colour of the political rainbow in the country, overstepping the political pluralism available in the country, in contravention of the practices of all the governments of the democratic era.

This is the government of a coup d'etat against democracy from within it.

A temporary government is the one which is formed to run elections and then resign after the new house is elected, and it is okay if the same team forms a new government, but this government has rejected this advice and contradicted democratic tradition which would make it necessary for it to resign, using the excuse that it is not a temporary govern-

ment.

What about His Majesty's words in the press conference on Nov. 9 — when the results of the elections were announced — "As for the government, no decision has been taken about this yet, but it would be natural for us to review our affairs at the beginning of a new stage and reorganise ourselves in accordance. The government has fulfilled its duties in full, a government which was concerned with the temporary state..."

I believe that it would be better if this government resigned and opened the way for a national coalition government which could bring in all colours of the Jordanian political rainbow to confront the new stage of political and economic developments.

Is it part of administrative reform to have the government overturn everything against one of the general managers who refused to take the minister's instructions to punish one of his employees in a martial law manner?

The government reacted by circulating a decision without dialogue or discussion in which it decreed that this general manager be removed from his post to another where he has no actual work, in order to downsize him.

It asked the ministers to sign its decision when it knew that the behaviour of the general manager was in line with the law, but the martial law temperament of this government does not respect the law.

And I want to ask the prime minister: is this administrative reform or a way to settle personal scores? We know, and we know the prime minister knows the answer?

All the administrative leaders in this government live in fear these days because they never know what the next day will bring because they are threatened daily if they do not abide by the dictates given to them by some bodies who are close to this government and if they do not pledge obedience to these bodies, even at the expense of the law.

Thank you for this wonderful administrative reform.

What do we say to a minister who swears at our people in newspapers. It is an issue that should lead him to resign or be removed from his post. That is if this government respects itself. One of the excellencies, in one of our local newspapers said: "The trade that our people master most is to create a mountain out of a mole hill."

That means that our people are all liars and at best exaggerators. Since our people are like this, your excellency, why did you accept to become a minister to serve these people?

I advise you to resign. As for the other minister, who has just entered the government in the reshuffle, who attacked all the Arab people in one of his lectures at the Arab Thought Forum when he said: "The reasons behind our technological backwardness are many, some are hereditary which we cannot deny. These genetic effects are caused by heredity and the environment."

In the same speech he said: "There is another factor which contributes to the technological state in the Arab World and that is the decreased ability to use hands among the Arab people and this is hereditary."

Well if our genes are backward, your excellency, why do you become a minister to serve us? Why don't you go to those whom you admire for their genes and who are not backward; perhaps they will open research centres for you where you could devise a way, with your developed mind, in which you can correct our genes?

And there is the minister who was the most effective in playing with the election procedures, and who comes back, after the announcement of the results, with a list of descriptions of the deputies categorising them along the lines of origins. So and So is of Palestinian origin, so and so is of Jordanian origin, and a third is a national Jordanian which can only indicate that the others are not nationalistic nor Jordanian.

That is when I had to ask some of the elders in my tribe, Bani Hassan, to find out when my forefathers arrived in Jordan and where they came from so that the minister would not make a mistake about my origin.

We are at loss. What are the standards by which ministers are chosen. What does his excellency the prime minister say about a minister of information (Maan Abu Nowar) who wanted to strip half the people

(Continued on page 4)



The Young Women's Christian Association choir

## Christmas joy with YWCA choir

By Jean-Claude Elias  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "It's beginning to look like Christmas" is more than a traditional song. It is a spirit that the choir of the Young Women's Christian Association knows so well how to share with the audience each December, since it was founded in 1980 by conductor Karim Bawab.

This year, the choir has scheduled four concerts at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) on Dec. 9, 11, 12 and 13. The choir owes its undiminished success to several elements, the main being Mr. Bawab's charisma. Then, there is the motivation, dedication and talent of all its members and a smart formula that

combines genuine classical pieces with lighter, traditional ones. Often the highlight of each performance is the finale that is sung with a massive, joyful audience participation. The novelty this year is the introduction of a strings section that will accompany the singers, in addition to pianist Agnes Bashir. The strings ensemble is part of the National Music Conservatory that performed at the RCC last Monday. The programme includes eighteen selections from the "Messiah" by Handel, Christmas carols and Arabic songs. "Laylat Eid", "Laylat Al Milad", "Ave Maria", "Rudolph the Red-nose Reindeer", "Joy to the World" and "Silent Night" will delight the audience as they have done in

previous years. Soloists Samia Ghannoum, Nancy Sha'ban, Jim Turner, Samir Carmi, Whitney Messenger, Wilmar Manzano, Nadim Bawab, the youngest of them all, will add a special touch to the voices of the choir.

Compositions and arrangements by local musicians like Salvatore Armita, Agnes Bashir, Samia Ghannoum and Yoanna Abu Rahmeh have been integrated in the programme.

At one of the choir rehearsals this week, the Jordan Times spoke to Mr. Bawab and to some of the singers and musicians. Seeing them at work and listening to them, whether singing or talking, was actually feeling the spirit of joy and peace we all believe in.

## Mitsubishi donates buses to Jubilee School as a 'token of goodwill'

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — President Manoro Makihara of the Mitsubishi Corporation Wednesday donated two 1994 school buses to the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Jubilee School as a "token of goodwill and friendship to the school and people of Jordan."

According to Fathi Jarwan, the principal of the school, the NHF contacted Mitsubishi Corporation and provided them with a list of the Jubilee School's needs; the company agreed to furnish the school with two buses expected to be delivered next February.

The two buses are needed by the school, Mr. Jarwan

said, adding that the school has only two buses and is renting some vehicles to transport its 89 students.

The Jubilee School is one of the NHF's most important projects.

The school is the brainchild of Her Majesty Queen Noor who started the idea back in 1985 and opened it in May this year.

The 89 students (all nine graders) are part of the school's plan that aims to construct a boarding high school with a capacity of 600 11- and 12-grade students (300 boys and 300 girls) from all parts of the Kingdom.

Dr. Jarwan explained that a multiple-criteria student selection process was undertaken by the school earlier this year. Testing was done

by the Jubilee School in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the University of Jordan in May and July.

According to Dr. Jarwan, 1,021 applications were submitted to the school, 789 from schools in the Greater Amman region.

Dr. Jarwan told the Jordan Times the school believes that gifted and talented students represent a national wealth which is vital for the future well-being and prosperity of the Jordanian society.

"The school's mission is to offer students with outstanding academic records a unique learning experience based on their needs, interests, capabilities and past experience," he said.

## WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

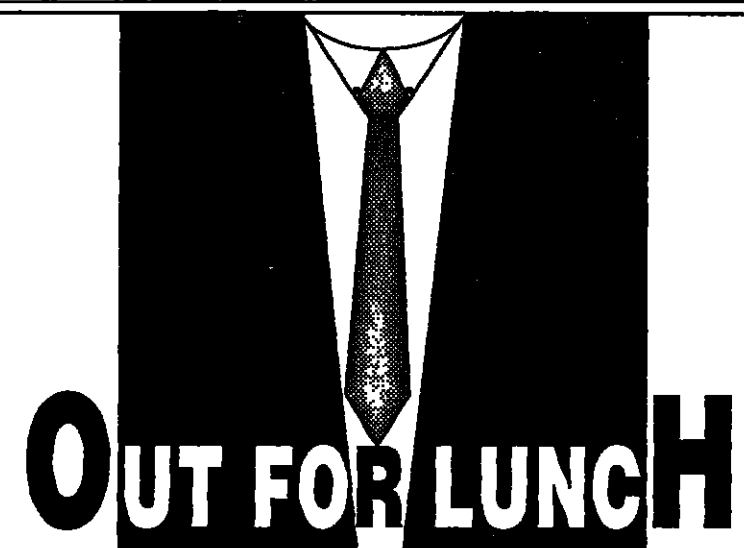
- ★ UNRWA exhibition of Palestinian embroidery and greeting cards at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Edelbert Della at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Beotr Bewhucuk at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of prints and drawings by Fakhr El Nissa Zaid at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing the permanent exhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by a number of Iraqi artists at La Casa Art Gallery (between the 5th and 6th Circles).
- ★ Exhibition of sewing equipment at the Royal Cultural Centre (11:00 - 7:00 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition of Lebanese products at Philadelphia Hotel.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by artist Khalid Khreis at the French Cultural Centre.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLS

- ★ Christmas cards presentation at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m. (on Thursday).

## FILMS

- ★ Film entitled "Dumbo" at the American Center (on Thursday) at 5:00 p.m.
- ★ Video film in English entitled "Dada Movement and Marcel Duchamps" (with commentary in Arabic by Ms. May Mudhaffar) at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh at 5:00 p.m.

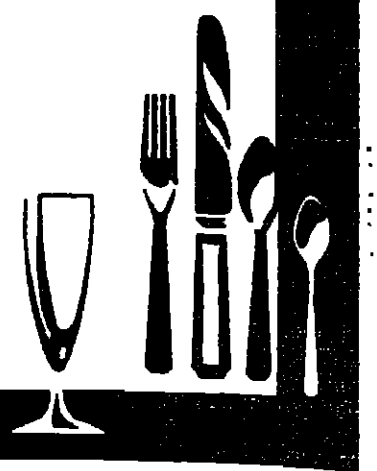


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## Gain for democracy

DEMOCRACY triumphed at Parliament last night. After four days of accusations, requests and demands by the people's deputies, and after a detailed reply from the government, the prime minister and his colleagues won the confidence they had sought. The fact that Dr. Majali won a simple majority is an important signpost on the road ahead for both government and Parliament. Much of what was said in the deputies' speeches is a true reflection of the real issues that our people are most concerned with: poverty, unemployment, under-developed regions, health, education, bureaucracy, corruption in government and favouritism, the economy and the peace process, among others. These issues, as Dr. Majali rightly pointed out in his reply speech, have been the concern of many governments, matters like the peace process and the economy are greatly influenced by external factors that are, in many ways, beyond our reach. However, other concerns are entirely in our hands and require genuine efforts on behalf of both government and Parliament to address them.

Dr. Majali's lengthy address to the House yesterday sought to answer all deputies' concerns, and his reconciliatory tone must have helped him to win more deputies to his side. But the prime minister, in his first encounter with an elected body must have also learnt a valuable lesson: Governing by the Constitution alone does not ensure democracy in government; nor can democracy alone provide bread and water to all citizens. Good government is about sound policies implemented by men and women of integrity through an efficient system in a democratic atmosphere and manner.

Both this government and the honourable members of both Houses of Parliament, old and new, will have to learn better how to work jointly to improve the lot of our people, which is exactly what they are all there for.

While Dr. Majali and his colleagues will pick up the threads in dealing with a new and vibrant Parliament, the honourable members, especially the deputies, need to follow up on the demands and requests they mentioned in their fiery speeches. But first they need to organise themselves, in the sort of groups and coalitions they had formed right after Parliament was convened. Then they need to develop their platforms by drawing viable and realistic programmes with which they can confront the government. Dismiss as unrealistic one deputy's programme which called for, among other things, the formation of one Arab and Islamic army and cancelling borders between all our countries. The government and parliament will face another seminal test coming soon, the budget debate. That too will help both parties to coexist and work together, towards the ultimate objective: Serving the people.

But, above all, Parliament and government must remember that while they are watching over each other's shoulder, the people will be watching them both. Only in four years from now, the people will go to the polls again once more to decide who will represent them in Parliament and watch the government for them beyond 1997 and into the 21st century. Jordan has, as both government and Parliament agree, a great deal of challenge lying ahead. It can only be met if democracy triumphed as it did yesterday.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS clear from the U.S. secretary of state's statements to the media yesterday that U.S.'s repeated attempts to achieve progress in the peace process is still obstructed by Israel's intransigence, said Al Rai daily. The obstacles, said the paper, are reflected in Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's insistence that any withdrawal of Israeli forces from Arab land should be in line with the security requirements of the Jewish state and that the time has not yet come for Israel to give up any part of the Gaza Strip and Jericho in accordance with the Oslo deal. Warren Christopher's statement calling on the Arabs not to lose hope was a clear attempt to show that his tour in the region has achieved some progress, although he realises that Israel has no intention of relenting, said the daily. Mr. Christopher has also said that he might soon be announcing a new date for the resumption of Israeli-Syrian talks, but he failed to secure any commitment from Mr. Rabin about Israel's change of position over the Golan Heights or the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza Strip and Jericho, the paper added. Therefore, one is led to the conclusion that Mr. Christopher will leave the Middle East without achieving any progress. Whatever Mr. Christopher might say at the end of his tour, said the paper, can by no means cover up for the Israeli intransigent position.

THE RABIN government is facing an escalating confrontation with the Jewish settlers who have apparently secured the backing of the Likud Party, said Taher Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dustour. Both the Likud and the settlers are determined to abort the PLO-Israeli deal and refuse to withdraw from Arab land, he said. In return, the Palestinians who are opposed to the deal are showing equal resistance and reacting violently to the settlers' atrocities and provocations, continued the writer. Faced with this situation, Mr. Rabin could either be trying to appease the opposition or speed up the implementation of the PLO-Israeli deal, the writer said. He expressed belief that the coming few years would be the hardest in the Palestinian struggle for freedom and liberation.

# Majali answers parliamentarians: Peace has to be just and comprehensive; Separation of powers serves the country better; Election Law allowed for fair casting of votes; Government will deal with poverty and unemployment; Reforming the administration will be an ongoing process

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday emphasised that his government was seeking a just and honourable peace that can guarantee the return of Arab rights on all tracks and fronts.

In an address answering to remarks made by the Parliament members over the past three days, the prime minister said that Jordan has made it a condition that peace should be comprehensive on all fronts and deal with all basic issues, especially the return of the refugees or compensation for their losses.

We have buried for ever the idea of a substitute homeland for the Palestinians despite the pressure exercised on us during the negotiating process, said the prime minister. He added that Jordan had been coordinating its stand with the other Arab countries and consulting with them on all issues.

"We have always been advocates of a peace that could be acceptable to the coming generations, one that has been endorsed by the Arab summits, as we want peace in implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 in order to achieve a durable settlement," he said.

"Jordan," he continued, "has called for peace with honour and the government has supported the PLO-Israeli deal because we realised that it contained achievements that should be protected," said Dr. Majali, adding: "We have offered the PLO our full backing towards the liberation of the lands and ensuring the basic needs of the Palestinian people."

Referring to the government's decision not to involve deputies in the government, Dr. Majali said that this policy reflected the belief that the executive and legislative authorities should be separated so that the deputies dedicate

their efforts to legislation and control of government performance.

With reference to the Election Law, he said that the government has been committed to the 1986 election law and its amendments and has not allowed for any excesses to that law, with the result that the elections were fair and free and held in the manner desired by His Majesty King Hussein.

Referring to the government plans for subsidies, the prime minister said that the government will soon issue a programme for subsidising prices of commodities and there are allocations for this in 1994 fiscal budget.

He stressed that the government will continue to control the prices of basic foodstuffs as these are the main commodities for the limited income groups.

As to the poverty and unemployment, the government is serious in taking measures to curtail the two problems by stimulating the national economy with investments, especially in projects in the less fortunate areas and through reorganising the local labour market.

The government, said the prime minister, will also expand the social security and will reconsider the employment regulations so as to give incentives to the workers and create new jobs.

Dr. Majali said the government will seek to improve the living standard of the employees, the military personnel and the pensioners and ensure for them a decent living.

Dr. Majali said that the process of reforming the administration was continuing, but would take time to bear fruit.

He said that the government would conduct a comprehensive revision of all the legislations related to civil service; he also said that the government would submit to the Parlia-

ment draft laws regarding the civil and military pension with the view to improving the living standards of the people. Following are excerpts of the prime minister's address in Parliament:

First I would like to emphasise the fact that I deeply respect this House and its members. You are, as the King has said, the distinguished elite of the people of Jordan.

I wish to speak frankly here. Like you, I was not happy about some writings in the press which dealt with the Parliament and the government's stand towards the House. This Parliament includes the very elite of the people and can by no means be considered as a tame House, endorsing anything given to it by the government.

The government considers that this is damaging to the government, the Parliament and the people who elected the deputies. We consider this as a way of damaging the image of the government and its relationship with the House.

Our dignity is the same, regardless of our differences of views. The government respects the views of all of you and your opposition to its policies. The government respects the views of all members of this House because they all aim to protect the national interest.

The government will prove to you that it will cooperate with you in all decision-making processes and will prove to you its respect and appreciation. The government is responsible before you and needs your confidence. Your support for our joint effort is required to serve this country and its wise leader.

Jordan has chosen the path of democracy and parliamentary rule as a way of life in order to achieve its desired objectives. Needless to say, this government believes in democracy and will act to

deepen its meaning and promote dialogue in order to attain the higher national interests.

This government pledges to remain in constant consultation with the Parliament in all important issues.

Some of the deputies have accused the government of breaching the Constitution by adopting the Speech from the Throne as its official policy statement. I do stress here that the government was absolutely committed to the Constitution and its 54th clause which provides for this situation. This is a must, according to the Constitution and according to the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution, issued in 1991.

Your House has also endorsed the government's decision to consider the Speech from the Throne as the government's policy statement, in implementation of the Constitution.

Concerning the description of this government as being only a provisional government, I tell you that there is no provision in the Constitution about a provisional government or otherwise a government could be asked by the King to take certain tasks as indeed occurred in the task to prepare for the elections and the other tasks contained in the King's letter of designation to the prime minister to form the government.

The holding of the elections was one of the tasks entrusted to the government.

As to the view that the government should have resigned after the elections, the government's decision to stay is not violating any provisions of the Constitution as long as the government plans to ask the House for a vote of confidence.

There is no harm done to the democratic march as long as the government has asked the House for a vote of confi-

dence.

As to queries raised about the failure of the government to consult Parliament on the Cabinet-reshuffle, I say that the government was formed when the 11th Parliament was not sitting and had completed its work and was not asked for an extraordinary session. Therefore it was impossible to conduct such consultations.

My meeting with the deputies of various blocs before the reshuffle aimed at explaining the general economic political and social situation in Jordan. This was needed to brief the deputies on policies.

The exclusion of deputies in the Cabinet was in line with a decision to separate the executive from the legislative authorities so that Parliament can dedicate its efforts to legislation and to control the work of the government.

Since its formation, the government started working to prepare for the elections and to create a democratic climate for the voting process. The introduction of the one-person, one-vote system was in conformity with the Constitutional and the National Charter which aimed at establishing equality among the citizens.

The introduction of the system followed consultations with various political groups and in response to public demands.

Any government decision on draft laws would have to be later endorsed by Parliament after debate.

The dissolution of the 11th Parliament came in conformity with the third article of the Constitution when Parliament was not sitting.

As to the procedures of the elections, the government was careful to apply the Election Law of 1986 and its amendments in word and in spirit.

The problem of repeated names in the voting lists was dealt with by the Ministry of Interior, which had discovered

the errors. Everything was done in accordance with the provisions of the Jordanian laws. Judges were among the committees in charge of the election and the counting of the votes.

As to point of related to considering Islam as the religion of the state, the government wishes to stress the provisions of the National Charter in this matter. According to the charter, Islam remains the main source for legislations. The government will apply the provisions of the charter and the civil law which is based on Islam.

As to the peace process, the government realises that peace required preparedness no less proportion than preparation for war.

We should not forget that Jordan called for a comprehensive peace that should restore Arab rights. After the Gulf war, peace became an international demand and the Arab countries accepted the Madrid peace formula. Jordan wanted to give peace a chance to regain its rights.

Jordan has not ceded any of its rights and after two years we reached a common agenda to start negotiations to regain our lands and waters.

We cannot say no to the restoration of Arab land and waters and we cannot say no for the other gains like the rights of the refugees.

The government seeks to study all financial legislation with a view to modernising them and for the sake of protecting public funds.

The government is also working on amending the taxation law and the sales tax law. It is also taking measures to find a final solution for the state-owned land illegally seized by citizens.

The government will strive to preserve and bolster national unity and it will prove this word and practice.

## Deputies conclude assessment of government policy statement

(Continued from page 3)

of their Jordanian citizenship and who instead of being (sacked) is relieved from his duty as information minister and rewarded by making him first deputy prime minister?

I have asked myself and my colleagues, I asked most of the voters I know and I asked them to direct me to one positive element about this government, hoping that with it I could hide the many faults of the government perhaps enabling me to give it confidence.

I did not find anyone who could give me this positive element and therefore I announce that I will not give confidence to this government until such a time it is replaced by a national coalition government which can respect the people and their deputies.

Hammad Abu Jamous

(Amman First District) (PDC)

My vote of confidence in the government hinges on the extent to which the government will address the issues and demands raised in my statement.

Our deliberations, discussion and rejection are but some of the fruits of personal freedoms, genuine political participation, political pluralism and respect of counter opinion, which we in this country enjoy, so let's safeguard these democratic gains and institutionalise them within the context of a sacred national unity.

The peace process warrants national, pan-Arab and international efforts, hence peace will not be achieved, nor will it be complete by the mere signing of partial agreements. Therefore, there is a need to support the firm Jordanian position, which calls for establishing a just, comprehensive and durable peace, in accordance with the United Nations resolutions.

In this context it is essential to stress the need for enhancing inter-Arab coordination to achieve a comprehensive peace that the future generations will accept.

Jordan is passing through economic difficulties as a result of foreign debts and the com-

plications of the Gulf war. This calls for mobilising the nation's energy and resources and directing them towards building a solid production base, which will reduce the country's reliance on external resources and liberate it from all forms of economic dependency.

The investment process in the coming stage will, in my opinion, be unidirectional because of our bureaucratic institutions and legislation as opposed to simple legislation, efficient, personnel and great facilities on the foreign investors' side.

I tend to believe that our share of the investment process will not be large.

I am afraid we will be the biggest loser.

We pin great hopes that the government will act immediately to remedy the situation by embarking on rapid, radical changes before it is too late.

Abdullah Akalish

(Tafilah District) (IAF)

I will review two basic tasks in the statement of the designated government.

1. Conducting free and honest elections, with the personal commitment and guarantee from His Majesty the King.

2. Continuing what its premier calls the peace process, which he started.

The government statement said "With great ability and efficiency my government was able to provide the wherewithal for the success of parliamentary elections held in a democratic climate where freedom and fairness..."

Yes, the government had indeed provided with great ability and efficiency all means of success, but the success of what? It is success in preventing the majority opposing the surrendering to the Zionist-American plan to dominate the whole region from reaching Parliament?

The government's statement said: "The amendment to the Election Law, which gave one vote to each voter, was arrived at only after a thorough debate by politicians, intellectuals, members of the media and

representatives of all shades of party and political opinion in this beloved country..."

We ask the designated government: Are you making God your witness to your wrong-doing or making light of our people or ridiculing its deputies? When was this dialogue held, on what level, what podium, or have you decided to abolish the Constitution which defined the mechanism of altering the legislation through proper channels?

The change was a blow to the national unity harmed the social texture of this country, enhanced sectarianism, regionalism and racism, destroyed even the family, not just the clan, and planted the seed of hatred and spitefulness among the people.

The government's statement says: "The election process has demonstrated the impartiality of my government and its keenness to provide a climate of freedom, equality and universal representation..."

The government was by no means impartial. This is an accusation which, I testify, the government is not guilty of. The government, with its official bodies, some ministers and senior officials, entered the scene on the practical and public level as an opposition party to us and those with whom we share the same ideology.

What freedom and what democracy is this that the government speaks of when the director of the Intelligence Department in Tafilah called people to his office, picked them from the street in his own car and asked them to vote for certain people?

Our battle with the government was from one neighbourhood and street to another. I announce before you all that the whole election process, excluding a small number of districts, was not free or honest, but it chased away the voter's freedom and his will.

The government's actions regarding the first task is alone enough to bring its downfall, even if it had won the confidence of the previous Parliament, so I wonder what its performance related to the second task will cause the

people. I call upon everyone with a free will and who truly represents the people to relieve the government of its duty and spare the people more misery.

Mifteh Al Ruheimi  
 (Jerash District)  
 (Ahd)

Despite the allegation that the present government is the government of the Ahd Party, I would like to point out that the government does not include a single minister from that party.

My colleagues in the Ahd Party and myself would have liked to be included in the present government, yet this has not materialised.

The Parliament ought to place the higher national interest above all considerations, try to safeguard the citizen's dignity and ensure a decent living for all.

I believe that the problem of unemployment has become a serious issue and I demand that solutions be found soon and potentials be pooled to deal with it.

Yet, I would say that the problem came as a result of external causes and not due to the domestic situation alone. For this reason, I call on the government to extend bridges of cooperation with the other Arab countries to help find jobs for the growing number of job-seekers.

I call on the House members to transcend differences and work hand in hand with the executive authority to achieve that goal and help apply decentralisation in order to save time, money and effort for the Jordanian citizens by solving their problems within their own governorates.

Ibrahim Zeid Kellani  
 (Amman Third District)  
 (IAF)

I declare that I will withhold confidence in the government. I feel that Jordan is passing through the most dangerous phase in its history. The question is how to save Jordan, enhance democracy and cooperate in building national unity.

We want a prime minister democratic in word and deed. We wanted our prime minister to consult with Parliament about the new Cabinet members and consult with the deputies so that the choice of ministers can be democratic.

With due respect to the Cabinet members, their choice was not democratic and we do not see the right persons in the right places.

The prime minister has followed undemocratic methods in choosing the ministers and by not consulting with the Parliament. Unless the Parliament puts an end to this practice, the successive premiers could follow in this premier's footsteps.

Respect for the citizens' dignity can only be safeguarded by freedom and through achieving a balance among the various sectors. This should also be applicable to the services and actions of the security forces whose duty is to provide security for the homeland and the Jordanian citizens.

My colleagues have talked about excesses of these services which, I believe, are signs of great danger, since such "practices could kill democracy in its cradle and deprive Jordan of real security stability."

I demand that the government cooperate with the House in enacting fair legislations that would curtail such excesses.

I suggest the creation of a special court, for those wishing to submit their grievances against the General Intelligence, to convene each month and examine these cases and so help put an end to injustices.

I demand that a new Election Law be enacted to cater to the real concept of democracy, a law that can ensure equality and fairness.

I call for laws to provide protection for those working women who spend time working outside their homes and most of the time caring for their children at home. I demand that women rights be safeguarded. But I do not believe that women rights would be protected through mixed education at schools and universities.

Mansour Ben Tarif  
 (Karak)

We are proud that democracy and Shura are well-entrenched in our society, within the framework of the law and the parliamentary-elected representation, as well as the pluralism of constitutional power and their cooperation. We are also proud to see that the executive authority is being held responsible by the legislative authority... that there are independence of the judicial authority, political pluralism, human rights and elected local authorities...

The government's policy in activating the Zakat fund is not the real cure for the increasing poverty problem...

I wonder what is the actual balance of foreign debt of the Kingdom.

As to the agricultural sector, we did not find the needed attention from the government to protect this sector...

And for the peace process, we fully support the (government's) keenness on restoring the complete Arab rights and guaranteeing that the full and legitimate rights be restored to the Palestinian people. We hail the King's keenness on the return of Jerusalem to its people... We also support the attention the government's statement attributed to the Arab relations and to the importance of enhancing and strengthening them.

Saad Hayel Srouf  
 (Northern Bedouins) (PDC)

I am deeply grateful to King Hussein for ordering that the general elections be held on schedule despite calls for delay. I am grateful to see that the elections were held in an atmosphere marked by freedom and fairness at a time when Jordan was witnessing fast-moving events at all levels.

Parliament's responsibility is great, as are the challenges facing the country, and I believe that the government and the Parliament ought to rise to the level of this responsibility and strive to live up to the

(Continued on page 5)

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## Jordanian wins acclaim for his oud skills

By Ian Atalla

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In Jordan, a country whose artistic traditions have long been overshadowed by those of her bigger Arab neighbours, it is perhaps a little bit noteworthy when the judges' choice for best musician at an International Arab Music Competition happens to be a Jordanian. This was the case when Sakher Hattar, 30, of Al Fuheis, won first prize for the oud at the first-ever International Competition for Arab Music Instruments, held at the Cairo Opera House last month in Egypt.

Although Hattar's name will not be on the tip of most Jordanians' tongues, many would probably remember or know of the Fuheis Ensemble for the Restoration of Music Heritage, a familiar face at the Jerash Festival since its early days. Hattar is the artistic director of the troupe and a founding member as well.

To get this far has not been easy. When he reached secondary school, he wanted to study music, but his parents' answer was a firm no.

Music is not yet considered an acceptable field of study in Jordan, Hattar said. "It is not considered a proper study here."

After his parents' no, he began his search for funding in support of his dream, but found nothing and finally decided to study architecture. Asked how difficult it is for musicians in Jordan, Hattar replied: "It is difficult, but not to the extent it was 12 or 13 years ago," when "music was neither appreciated nor approved of. An aspiring musician then was faced with the prospect of poor income and low social status."

"Jordan has improved a lot over the past decade," he said, "but we still have not arrived at the stage, as in other countries, where a musician is considered to be someone who contributes to his country's cultural progress. In Europe, the musician... is respected, because he is a productive person."

The end result, he said, has been the exodus of many of the better Jordanian musicians from the country. "Yousuf Khasho for example, has composed 15 symphonies, and is considered an artist by international standards. In Jordan, he is virtually unknown. He did not get any credit or care for his work here in Jordan, so he left."

And thus, he said, the musicians who elected to stay behind in Jordan face a void, "where the opportunities for mixing and working together are few."

Hattar said that as far back as he could remember, as a small child in Fuheis, he was surrounded by music, and the joy of sharing in it's making. "My mother was always singing to us — old folk songs and hymns, and lullabies when we went to sleep. And then we would wake up again hearing her songs, and everyone would sit together and sing with her. Her voice was beautiful."

"All my brothers and sisters came to love music, singing, and playing musical instruments."

One day when he was eight years old, he related, his older brother got fed up with his crying. To distract him his brother taught him a few notes on the oud. The next day, his curiosity aroused, he stacked a chair on top of a table to climb up and get to his brother's oud,

which had been put neatly out of the way on top of a tall cabinet, and began to play it by himself.

Musically, Hattar is an outspoken conservative, and sees as a definite threat the way Western musical styles have "begun to take over our culture, in a very big and noticeable way. This has begun to take away from the importance of Arab music itself."

And above all the other musical styles which he says have influenced him — including Egyptian, Iraqi, Western classical, Iranian and Turkish music among others — the music which remains closest to his heart is the traditional Jordanian folk music which he grew up with in Fuheis, "which emanates from within the people. It does not consciously aim at any cultural goals or pretences — it is spontaneous. And this gives the music a strong sense of feeling and emotion and, in the end, more honesty."

Performances he has been involved with in other countries, both in and outside the Arab World, had proved to him that Jordanian folk music could be appreciated by foreigners and have an impact on them. "This," he said, "added to my sense that our music is something very valuable."

In the states he had met and performed with a group of Americans who had learned how to play Jordanian folk music on traditional Arab instruments. Their director was an American who had studied in Jordan at the National Music Conservatory.

"It gave me a feeling that Jordanian music was capable of being taken to all corners of the world," he added.

Mr. Hattar strongly criticised the gradual takeover



Sakher Hattar receives his award in Cairo

of Western instruments, such as the Violin, the guitar, and the synthesizer, in the typical Arab ensemble from original Arab instruments, such as the Niy, or the oud itself.

"It has become a secondary instrument, after it had long held an important role in the Arab musical ensemble."

He was especially alarmed by the infusion of electronics into the Arabic ensemble, "especially after experience has shown that it is impossible for an electronic device to be capable of copying the human sensitivity which is found in the playing of a traditional instrument. It is a sound devoid of true musical feelings."

The overall result, he said, has been that "the level of interest and care for the Arab instruments has declined," along with the "care and regard for original, or traditional Arab music."

And so the International Competition for Arab Music Instruments was held, for the first time ever, this year, because these large and rapid changes in Arab music had "caused many in musical circles to become concerned. They began to think about ways to restore the importance and reverence for the Arab instruments."

Two weeks before participating in the competition — he was nominated for it by the National Music Conservatory — Hattar dropped all his other work and studies and "imprisoned myself" alone in a room. He proceeded to practice there for 12 to 14 hours every day.

When he travelled to Cairo for the competition, he said, his eyes had been opened wide by the vast world of Arab music and musicians which he found there — a world he had never known before.

"Their musical activity and work is truly impress-

ive. These musicians make up an effective artistic movement, and I found that the artists are there in Cairo, and not living abroad."

"And they have coffeehouses and nightspots they meet in, and special sessions they attend. They have many, many activities. Because of that, their work enables the continuous flow of generation after generation of musical artists."

His trip to Cairo and winning the award there have given him two new dreams, he said. One is to travel to Cairo to study music; and the second dream is to someday be an international solo artist. He said he hoped that in future he would find the time for the long and strenuous daily practice sessions needed to be a musician of that cali-

ber, but "for now, my time is very limited — I am working in a number of capacities so that I can earn a decent income."

He teaches the oud at Terra Sancta College and the National Conservatory, works with the Fuheis troupe and, in addition to all these, he is studying to earn a bachelor's degree in music at Yarmouk University.

He was philosophical about his situation: "I wish that I were able to set aside some time for myself to practice and train, but I believe that teaching is important as well." He added that if he could leave an artistic "thumbprint" behind, he would like it to be from his performances and from a generation of his students. "This would be a big honour for me."



The Jordanian musician plays in front of the judges at the first International Competition for Arab Music Instruments in Cairo

## BOOK REVIEW

### The silent prince

Islam's Quiet Revolutionary: The Story Of Aga Khan IV

By Akbarali Thobhani  
Vantage Press, New York 1993, \$16.95

The Ismaili form of Islam represents its "gentle and peaceful face", according to the author of this book. This is essentially a devotional work or hagiography to bring to public notice the life and achievements of the Ismaili community leader Prince Karim Aga Khan IV, the 49th hereditary imam of this sect, which the author estimates has 15 million followers spread across the world. Not in any real sense a biography, the book is rather a list of the progress made by this remarkable, enterprising community around the world. It lists the many worthy projects for social and economic welfare, the cultural initiatives mounted in many countries of Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

Some excellent hospitals and universities for the general public benefit have been created with Ismaili money in Pakistan and elsewhere, while the Aga Khan Awards for Architecture, initiated in 1980, have made a definite impact on the profession. The opening of prestigious Ismaili cultural centres in Western cities, notably in London, has been a feature of recent times. Many thousands of the Ismailis living in Uganda before Idi Amin, and in East Africa in general, have since resettled in Britain and North America, where some business entrepreneurs have prospered greatly.

For a reader wishing to know more than the outline of Ismaili community progress, along with some insights into the character and personality of Prince Karim, this book will inevitably be disappointing. Dr. Thobhani, who teaches history and political science at Metropolitan State College, Denver, does not have an enquiring mind about his imam. He is, in fact, discreet to a fault. And as a devout Ismaili, the author does not permit himself a single indiscretion, nor one hint of criticism of Aga Khan IV with regard to his big business activities in tourism and industry, (especially in Italy), his horse racing or, indeed, any other activities.

A final chapter, significantly called, "The Ultimate Cosmopolite", states baldly that Prince Karim has only very rarely expressed his views about the whole range of conflicts, wars and controversies in the Muslim World. The fact that he remains "conspicuously silent" is found unremarkable by Dr. Thobhani. Respect may be a fine thing, but by itself it does not make for a lively book.

What a contrast there is, in the career and life of Prince Karim, as presented here at least, to the vigorous engagement in public life and international politics of Prince Karim's much more colourful and famous grandfather, Sir Sultan Mohammad Shah Aga Khan III. Admired by many of his contemporaries for his colossal wealth and extravagant lifestyle, (and let it be admitted here, equally loathed or despised by others as an opportunist, poseur and idle playboy), Aga Khan III was an international figure to be reckoned with during much of his long life from 1877. Even at the end of this book though, the "Quiet Revolutionary" of the title remains by way of contrast a grey, not to say shadowy, figure. His biography still remains to be written — Middle East International.

Anthony Hyman

## Thoughts for this week

We are always doing, says he, something for posterity, but I would fain see posterity do something for us — Joseph Addison, English essayist and poet (1672-1719).

Make haste slowly — Caesar Augustus, Roman emperor 63 B.C.-A.D. 14).

A religion that is small enough for our understanding would not be large enough for our needs — Arthur Balfour, the first earl of Balfour, English statesman (1848-1930).

I could prove God statistically, take the human body alone — the chances that all the functions of an individual would just happen is a statistical monstrosity — George H. Gallup, American pollster (1901-1984).

## The Question raises more questions, leaves many unanswered

By Mohammad Masharga

When a children's play embodies the essential educational and psychological elements and when the audience captures the aesthetic and pleasant scenes in it, then, one can conclude that the artistic work has achieved success.

Indeed these elements presented themselves in the play "Al Su'aa" (The Question) and for this reason I believe it has won first prize.

This was expressed by Khaled Tarifi, head of a committee that judged the works of the second Jordanian Children's Theatre Festival held at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

Vesna Masharga, a Yugoslav-born Jordanian who specialises in psychology and drama and who won the first prize, had earlier secured most of the other festival prizes. But this play (The Question) in particular had raised a wide controversy among educationists and playwrights alike largely due to the fact that the play tackles the mal-practices of the Jordanian educational institutions, by presenting a cartoonist's image in criticising the role played by most of the teachers and the school principals.

The play (The Question) tackles the story of a 10-year-old school-boy with a large nose who hated the school and the teachers and preferred to confine himself in a small room isolated from the outside world for fear of being made an object of ridicule because of his unusually long nose.

The role of the boy was played by 19-year-old Hamed Ala'uddin who also assumes the principal character of the play by creating the various problems and events facing the unfortunate boy at school, as well as within the family and local community, with a high degree of skill.

The character of Farid, played by Ala'uddin, justifies his refusal to join a birthday party of one of his relatives simply because, he says, the guests would busy themselves with trying to track the roots of the family's long nose or they would suggest plastic surgery to deal with this awkward situation.

It is at school that the problem of the long nose assumes its ugliest proportion when the female teacher tries to choose one of the children to play the role of a prince in one of the school's plays.

Trying to choose from those present to play the main role, the teacher justifies her rejection of some of the boys for the role by giving unconvincing reasons for her choice, such as describing one to be too fat or another too thin or dark-skinned and not suitable for the role and putting down Farid for this big ugly nose which of course excludes him from the prospect of taking the role of the prince.

### AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

The boy resorts to lying and neglecting his school duties and the teacher resorts to isolating him from the rest of the children treating him rather cruelly. As to the headmaster (Nazih Kilani) he tries to deal with this situation by threatening to punish the boys. At home, Farid remains obsessed by the pain and the shame to the family and also is driven into a frenzy by his grandmother's recurrent complaints that the family had only one boy and three girls and urging for more sons to be brought into the family. Typical of many other situations in the Arab community, the grandmother says: We could have tasted real joy had the father married one of his relatives because she would have born him a white boy with a normal nose.

The writer and director of the play succeeds in projecting other elements in the main characters like presenting Farid as a painter and photographer, encouraged by the attitude of the arts teacher who harbours affection towards Farid considering him the best in his class because he depicts natural scenery using the right colours.

Farid's grandfather (50-year-old Abdul Fattah Jbara) plays an important role when he focuses Farid's attention on the pictures of all the students in school photographs singling out those characterising features making them all look important figures. The grandfather, acting in a very gentle and friendly manner, succeeds in persuading the boy to leave the house and end his isolation. Reactions and views about the play were wide and variant. Artist Jamil Awad, and school head master Nadra Al Khatib considered the play as tackling very dangerous topics because they say it presented the school and the teachers in a negative image.

Samar Dudin (a specialist in drama-in education) said that since the play's director is herself specialised in education and psychology, the ideas are worth discussing on a scientific basis.

In Dudin's view, no children's theatre can succeed except through the efforts of professional actors who can transform the theatre into a tool for bringing about real social change and that can help build up a child's character.

Khaled Tarifi considered the presentation as serving the cause of change and a means of educating the young boys and girls as well as adults.

He said the play (The Question) was a wild cry against the traditional educational methods which entail irresponsible practices that tend to cause harm to the children's psyche.

The fact that the children had their major participation in the play reflects the magnitude of the problem facing them at school. The successful direction of the play justified its winning the first prize.

In Tarifi's view, the play was a success because it tackled a local and realistic problem facing our community and presented in a very impressive way, complete with shades of art, decor, colours, lighting, music, etc...

Critics were unanimous in voicing appreciation of the play not only for its outward presentation but largely due to the interaction with the events of the play on the part of the actors working as a team with great sense of responsibility.

This view was expressed by N. Markarian, a teacher who said she herself went through similar painful situation like Farid when she was a little child but she said she overcame this predicament and came first in her class at the secondary level and enrolled at the university and finished higher education.

The director of the play said that the controversy revolving around the play was very positive in nature. She said that through her work at schools, she came to realise the extent of sufferings and the pressures facing the little children largely due to malpractices and misconceptions related to evaluating people from their outward looks.

Through this play (The Question) she said she tried to prompt the educationists and those in responsible positions to direct their attention to the real need of children and to try to bring out the gift and the talent inherent in them.

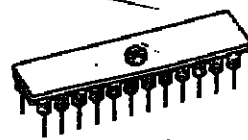
To do this, she added "I have benefited from the cultural and religious heritage of the Arab society. I regard the prize as a clear recognition of the existing problems which still plague our schools in Jordan."



## Thirty- something

By Jean-Claude Elias

### chip talk



Computer specialists, consultants and researchers like to impress the mere mortals by sustaining that Information Technology is still in its infancy and that the best is yet to come. This claim may be true from a purely technical point of view, but the ordinary users of personal computers (PC) have come to a comfortable modus vivendi with their machines and use them with an efficiency that belies the specialists' statement.

In the eighties, which saw the birth of the PC, both the machines and the programmes (the hardware and the software) grew up and got rid of their early weaknesses. The power of the first PC was not up to the then existing programmes. The users would spend as much time doing actual work as they would waiting for the software to load in memory, the screen to re-appear or the processor to finish its work. Disk storage was inadequate and expensive. The software companies were still testing their products and the term user-friendly was only a hazy notion.

The situation is now much clearer than during the previous decade. Hardware and software make a consistent combination. Programmes that cover a wide range of functions have been fine tuned by their designers, based on their own experience and the precious feedback of millions of users worldwide. The hardware has become incomparably more powerful and now allows the smooth running of the new, well designed programmes. From painfully experimental in the eighties, personal computing has become a real pleasure.

The important reduction of the hardware prices has

largely contributed to making the modern PC available to private as well as corporate users.

The direct, practical consequence of this progress is that people now spend less time buying-replacing-buying equipment and more time using it. The situation is healthier and leads to more productivity. Not necessarily in the industrial meaning of the term, but in a general manner.

Now that home users know a thousand ways to benefit from their PCs and that companies, small or large, trust these small machines so much they are discarding large mainframe computers and replacing them with PCs, one certainly cannot talk of "infancy" anymore. The PC has become a mature entity.

Expecting more technological breakthrough is not only reasonable but the only sensible attitude. Seen from this angle, the specialists' approach is correct. Much is yet to come. How powerful will future machines be or what will they let us accomplish, no one can tell. But the days of fumbling for data or presentable printout are gone.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### TIME FOR RIB-TICKLING READING

#### 'CRANKS

- \* He has such a long face, barbers charge him double for shaving it.
- \* He doesn't get ulcers — he gives them.
- \* He has a perfect way of ending office conferences. He says: "All those opposed to my plan say 'I resign.'"
- \* There are so many yes — men working for him, his firm is called "the Land of Nod."
- \* His liver is out of order, and his opinions are the same.
- \* He really should see a psychiatrist about his infuriating complex.
- \* His favourite expression is: "My mind is already made up, so don't confuse me with the facts."
- \* To him life is a mirror and he's always looking for a crack in it.

N.B.: A crank is a person with very strange, odd or peculiar ideas

### SAY IT IN ARABIC

#### FAMILIAR EXPRESSIONS

- Keep your hair on. *La tagh'dab.*
- He returned hale and hearty. *Raja'a saliman ghaniman.*
- Go at it hammer and tongs. *Ishtaghal behinma wa nashat.*
- He has clean hands. *Hawa ameen wa nazeeh.*
- Let it go hang. *Leyakon ma yakoon.*
- He's a happy-go-lucky person. *Hawa shakhs mutawakil.*
- Don't harrow her feelings. *La tajrah masha'irha.*
- It's a heart breaking time. *Innahu wakt aseeb.*
- It's high time to quit. *Han al wakt lil insiraf.*

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

**GREAT EXPECTATIONS:** Twelfth novel of Charles Dickens. It was written to increase the circulation of All the Year Round, in which it appeared between Dec., 1860 and Aug., 1861. Philip Pirrip affords a companion study to David Copperfield. His dilemma between the humble ties of his sister's home and his expectations from a mysterious benefactor who afterwards turns out to be a convict he had helped on the marshes, convey a wholesome moral. It was at Bulwer Lytton's suggestion that the story was given a happy ending.

**HARD TIMES:** Charles Dickens's ninth and shortest novel. Published in Household Words (April-Aug., 1854), it is a satire on the utilitarian philosophy of early Victorian days, bears unmistakable evidence of Carlylean influence, was approved to its main drift and purpose by Ruskin, and dismissed by Macaulay as "sullen socialism."

### HUMOUR

- \* **CHILD:** Mum, mum, hurry up! There's a stranger in the dining-room kissing our maid.
- The mother felt embarrassed and went out to see who the stranger was.
- The child chuckled and said: "It's April Fool's day. The man is not a stranger. He's my dad."

\* A Catholic Irishman committed a crime and admitted that robbery was the chief motive for killing.

**INVESTIGATOR:** How much did you find in your victim's pockets?

**MURDERER:** Only half a pound.

**INVESTIGATOR:** What did you do with the money?

**MURDERER:** I've bought some whisky.

**INVESTIGATOR:** Did you find anything else about him?

**MURDERER:** Nothing but his food.

**INVESTIGATOR:** What did you do with the food?

**MURDERER:** I ate the bread and left the meat.

**INVESTIGATOR:** Why did you leave it?

**MURDERER:** Because it was Friday and my religion forbids me to eat meat on that day.

\* One of the clients went into Venus Bar in Beirut and found tens of people standing before the statue where Venus appears to be nude with an amputated arm. A comedian happened to be there.

One of the clients asked him: "Why do so many people move about the statue of Venus?"  
Comedian: "Because it portrays the best and sweetest of men's dreams ..... a naked woman, an exciting body with no arm to be used when necessary."

### COOKING IS FUN

#### RICE WITH RUMP OF LAMB & BUTTER

#### INGREDIENTS

- 2 lbs. shin of lamb with bones
- 6 oz. butter
- 1 1/4 lbs. rice
- 2 pts. boiling water
- 3 tsp. salt

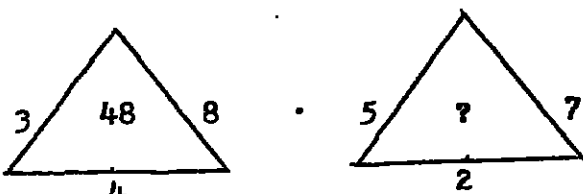
#### METHOD

Cut meat in such a way that each shin remains whole. Put butter in a copper pot; add meat and bones and brown over high heat. Turn meat so that all sides are brown. Add salt and water and let boil hard over high heat. Reduce the heat to moderate and let meat cook till it is done. Now take out bones and add rice which has been soaked. Cook until rice is done. Leave near heat till it is time to serve it.

NOTE: Yoghurt may be served with this dish.

### PUZZLES

#### (A) INSERT THE MISSING NUMBER



#### (B) DISENTANGLED LETTERS

Dise ntangle the letters in each of these words, all of which are names of different types of vehicles. Underline which one is unlike the others.

1. RACT
2. KRCUT
3. BLEICCY
4. LEGSIH
5. CARGIARE

## Renewing a licence

By E. Yaghi

For a whole year I absented myself from the abandoned hills in a certain industrial sector, and it was now that I returned again a few days before the expiration of my licence to renew it. Along the way, patches of green spread over rolling hills and in places, drills dug deep into the earth to make way for more high rise buildings. Yet, the view offered a pleasant relief from the crowded areas of the city and the busy schedule I left behind and as the car sped by, it struck me that so much history centred in this entire Jordanian area.

I hadn't counted on staying at the Licensing Department more than a few hours with my renewed licence victoriously conquered in my clutch, so, it took little effort to enjoy the scenery which flicked past the car window.

Once there at the department, I hardly put my foot on the pavement when vendors stamped in my direction so that I and others like me could photocopy the required documents needed to be submitted for the driver's application in their places of business. Dumpy little stores welcomed prospective applicants and after half an hour, a client would fork over payment in exchange for poor quality photos (do I look that terrible!) and Xerox copies. This deed accomplished, I headed for the red cement bus-hzog which loomed up in the middle of nowhere on the crest of one of many hills in the area. Inside, rows of fellow applicants queued up at various windows.

Not quite knowing which line to follow, I aimed for the least crowded and when my turn came at last, submitted all the documents in my possession. A very polite officer stated: "You must have your passport photocopied too. Just go outside the building and the walls, and there, you will find someone to Xerox it."

Once again, I went to a little stall and made a copy of the requested document. I walked briskly back to the department, past the one-legged man selling stamps, past the vendor selling hot coffee on the steps just outside the building, and up the stairs of the department. Inside, I of course, had to queue once more until my turn arrived and the same polite man looked at my documents and application and then stated: "I'm sorry, but you have to have a licence for your car also."

"But," I protested, "I have no car."

"That's all right, just bring a friend's or relative's then," he answered and pointed towards the eye doctor and said, "go and get your eyes checked and come back with a car licence and you'll be all set."

So I underwent the eye examination and good luck, I still didn't need glasses. But bad luck, I needed someone's car licence. I couldn't do anything more that day therefore, I departed that indifferent building and decided to try again the next day. The sun which rose bright and cheery hung like an orange ball and grew warm and beguiling. The winter sky was a charming blue with puffs of white clouds dotting the atmosphere. Too nice a day to fail, I thought. If my luck's as good as the weather, I should have my licence within a few hours time. Sharp thinking, before going to that threatening red building without a Xerox of my borrowed car licence, I made sure to photocopy the pages needed and once more passed the stamp seller and coffee vendor who had a large brass coffee pot which steamed its wares into the cool morning air. Good luck, I arrived early enough to avoid an impossible crowded window. When my turn approached once more, I triumphantly presented all my completed documents and smiled like a winner with a chuckle to myself with the thought that now there is nothing to stand in my way. Within no

time, I'll have that little licence in my hands. Bad luck, the car licence I borrowed, expired two days ago. I know disappointment was written all over my face and I didn't even care to disguise it. The nice polite man said: "I'm sorry, but since the licence is expired, it cannot be used because it's invalid."

"But," I feebly croaked, "it's not even my car. I don't even own a car! Why do I have to have someone else's licence if I don't own a car?"

Perhaps the poor officer thought I might become hysterical right then and there, but I bottled up all my frustrations and tried not to have a nervous breakdown when he answered in a calm yet civil voice: "Don't worry. Just bring anyone's licence and come back tomorrow."

I tried to brave a smile as I marched out the building into the fading sunshine. On my way, I passed many dinky, dreary stores but they had lost their enchantment when I slowly crawled down the hill to wait on the main street until I flagged a taxi. On the way home, I noticed the day had suddenly gone gray and chilly in accordance with my mood. Why does everything have to be so complicated, I wondered. Why must I have a car licence to offer as a required document if I don't own a car? Of course, any rational person reading my mind might query: "Then if you don't have a car, why do you insist on having a driver's licence?" To which I might answer in defence: "Because I want one, that's why. Maybe one day I will have a car and voila, I will be able to drive!"

The last time I entered that red building, my hopes were somewhat dimmed. Indeed, I had procured a relative's non-expired car licence so what could happen now to stop me from finalising my efforts? I had managed to arrive at the Licensing Department even earlier than my last visit. I queued again at the end of an impatient line at last, my turn came. I put all the documents in front of the nice officer like a poker player setting his cards on the table and studied the expression facing me. Could there be something wrong? Good luck! All my papers were in order and the policeman smiled a very polite and kind smile and said: "That's it. You're all ready to go."

"What do I do now?" I asked with a satisfied voice.

"Just go over there where you see those chairs and wait until your name is called."

So I did just that. I waited and I waited and observed all the others who were waiting and waiting just like myself. A tall thin elderly man with a bushy gray beard, who wore a sports jacket kept walking back and forth as he ran a string of prayer beads through his fingers. Another, older man in a tweed suit and brown boots greeted a friend and sat down to talk while he waited. Others, joined the bushy bearded man in pacing the floor. A few women walked to and fro too, waiting their turn to receive their licences. At last, as a group of anxious licensed-to-be owners rushed up to the window in the midst of a throng of waiters, my name was called and at last, I held that little white card (that had posed so many problems) in my hand. Just before I left, I took my licence and went to the officer who had so kindly assisted me and thanked him for his help. Well, until next year, then, I will hoard my treasured permit to drive until I am occasioned once again to join others like myself to renew my licence. But I really still cannot understand why one must have a car licence in order to obtain a driver's licence, for owning a car doesn't necessarily qualify a person to obtain permission to drive. A person may drive perfectly well without owning a car, just ask my children who shake and shudder everytime I even think of driving.

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

### Thursday, Dec. 9

#### 8:30 Family Matters

The Candidate

The shy Ronnie is to run for president of the Freshmen class elections; his rival is the incumbent president, an outgoing and a confident contender.

#### 9:10 Reasonable Doubts

#### Crumbling Systems

Maggie is defending a female doctor who, under medical sedation, hits a man by car, while Dick guards a witness in a drug case.

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 Movie Of The Week

— The Perfect Tribute

Starring: Jason Robards and Lukas Hass

The story of a hero who falls during the American Civil War. On his death bed he calls for a lawyer to write down his will.

### Friday, Dec. 10

#### 8:30 E.N.G.

An ex-woman convict is on the loose... Jake, the photographer, finds her and helps her escape to Canada.

#### 9:30 Faces and Places

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 The Alien Years

In Europe the war is at its peak: in Australia, meanwhile, citizens of German descent are being persecuted. Despite his grandfathers objections, Henry joins the war against the Germans.

#### 11:10 Are You Being Served

### Saturday, Dec. 11

#### 8:30 The Fanelli Boys

Anthony has been nominated as Man Of The Year; everybody is attending his party, except Frank, who has other plans.

#### 9:00 Da Beat's On

A weekly Pop Spectacular with Muhammad Al Jazireh, who brings you the latest songs on the pop charts and many other surprises.

#### 9:30 Perspectives

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 Feature Film — On The Streets Of L.A.

A father and his son are out of prison, but only on extremely strict conditions. This is their story on how they avoided going back to prison...but with a high price.

### Sunday, Dec. 12

#### 8:30 You Bet Your Life

Your weekly date with comedian Bill Cosby, who gives away the Grand Prize of \$10,000 to the winning contestants in his entertaining quiz show You Bet Your Life.

#### 9:10 Thirtysomething

#### The Guilty Party

After having her second son, Hope feels quite guilty for not having enough time to care for Michael; to remedy this, she holds a birthday party for him.

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 The Men Who Killed Kennedy

### The Coverup

The Coverup examines the aspects of the assassination which the two official government enquiries attempted to conceal in order to promulgate the "lone assassin theory."

### Monday, Dec. 13

#### 8:30 Delta

Road Trip

Delta and her friend Connie are off to Washington to attend a convention where country singer Tanya Tucker is to perform. But on the way, many unexpected things happen.

#### 9:10 The House Of Eliott

Beatrice and Jack's relationship has deepened; and the two sisters are introduced to a top fashion writer who arranges for an interview...but things don't turn out the way the sisters expected.

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 The Guilty

Out of desperation, Vey has got a mad idea; he offers Eddy a very lucrative but not so legal job for him. Eddy has become Vey's only hope.

#### 11:15 The Sleeping Beauty

The Vision

You are invited to a ballet performance of The Sleeping Beauty, performed by the Leningrad Ballet Company.

### Tuesday, Dec. 14

#### 8:30 Night Court

Dan's Operation

Dan is still in hospital recovering from his ulcer operation. His friends are around him trying to cheer him up.

### 9:10 Brand New Life

Children Of A Legal Mom

Barbara tries very hard to divide her time between her family at home, and her studies at the law school.

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 Feature Film — A Yank At Oxford

Starring: Robert Taylor and Vivien Leigh

A light comedy about an American, Lee Sheldon, who is granted a scholarship to study at Oxford University in England. And despite the cultural life that he encounters he enjoys the fun in living in the heart of England.

### Wednesday, Dec. 15

#### 8:30 Too Close For Comfort

The Cosmic Cow Vs The Oval Office

In his latest edition of The Cosmic Cow, Henry insults the Oval Office; he's requested to apologise, or else he'll be fired.

#### 9:10 Documentary — Ocean World

A spectacular "eco-music-al" with the help of montage-editing and colour. Presenting unique footage of Whales and dolphins in a kaleidoscopic view of the underwater world.

#### 10:00 News In English

#### 10:20 Till Murder Do Us Part

Starring: Meredith Baxter and Stephen Collins

Betty feels betrayed by her husband; the divorce is brutal. Her efforts seem blocked at every turn, for everybody is Dan's friends. Her disappointment and fear turn into obsession?



# Robert Altman turns his cameras to Paris fashion world

**By Suzy Patterson**  
The Associated Press

PARIS — After hit films about Nashville and Hollywood, it's not surprising that Robert Altman would turn to the world's fashion capital for his next behind-the-scenes look at a glitzy, high-stakes industry.

Altman has been thinking about doing a movie about big-time fashion for 10 years, since his wife cajoled him into seeing a Paris show. At last, the project has jelled, and he's primed to make Ready-To-Wear.

The director of M-A-S-H, Nashville and The Player was on hand at the recent Ready-To-Wear shows to announce that filming would begin when the next round of shows take place in March.

His cast is star-studded and multinational: Linda Hunt, Tracy Ullman, Sally Kellerman, Tim Robbins, Julia Roberts and Marcello Mastroianni, among others. The main fashion designer will be played by French star Anouk Aimee.

Rumours already are flying about characters and plot — a nymphomaniac fashion editor, a Russian spy, and so on. But Altman says the script is unfinished, and his co-writer, San Francisco Examiner arts editor Barbara Shulgasser, has just arrived in Paris.

Altman talked about one scene in which the fashion editor played by Roberts loses her luggage, and ends up without a change of clothes in the room of a

sportswriter played by Robbins.

"They finally spend a week in bed covering their various events by television — unless we change it," Altman said.

He announced the film on the runway of a show by designer Sonia Rykiel, whose daughter, Nathalie, will be fashion adviser for the production.

"We're thrilled. This is the first important film to do with fashion, a real consecration," Nathalie said.

The real fashion world will be very much in the picture. Altman will film genuine fashion shows, and expects to cast some of the industry's real-life players.

"We may use fashion people who really want to play with us," Altman said during an interview at the

Rykiel's home. "But we won't get into any free-bidding business. Most people don't realise how hard it is to make a film-what long, hard hours it takes. I don't want people saying, 'I want out...'"

The movie will be shot almost entirely in Paris, but Altman said some scenes will be in Russia.

Altman says Ready-To-Wear could be his biggest directorial challenge.

"It's neither like The Player nor Nashville, where we had entire control over what was happening," he said. "We're trying to integrate our characters into existing events. We have to be authentic."

He's looked into after-hours nightlife as part of his research, spending an even-

ing at a chic disco with three superstar models and their dates. But there were no drinks.

"I gave up alcohol a few years ago," he said. "It was bad for my heart, and my art."

With a recent diet, Altman, 58, has lost 35 pounds (16 kilograms), and feels fit to tackle a heavy future schedule.

Fashion became an interest almost by accident, Altman said.

"Ten years ago, after I'd presented a film called Streamers in Brittany, my wife, Kathryn, wanted me to see a Paris fashion show. I said no way, and invented a fake illness."

He finally relented, attended a Sonia Rykiel show with his wife and was

hooked.

"I was dazzled by the spectacle, the incredible show. It gave me goose bumps. It excited me," he said.

The Altmans went backstage, met Rykiel, who became a good friend, and the germ of a film was conceived.

Six years later, Altman spent months in Paris making Vincent And Theo, a film about the Van Gogh brothers, and lined up financial backing for his fashion movie.

But even now, he insists he is no fashion expert and doesn't want people to think Ready-To-Wear is primarily about clothes.

"If people start thinking they're at a fashion show, noticing this or that style, then I've lost," he said.



Robert Altman

# Crime, poverty drive Filipinos to escape in films

**By Ruben Alabastro**  
Reuters

MANILA — Drawn by the appeal of sex, violence and rags-to-riches stories, Filipinos are packing cinemas and propping up a film industry that offers them an escape from the poverty around them.

In a nation where nearly half of the 65 million population is unsure where its next meal will come from, the movies have remained a robust industry, surviving taxes, censorship and the challenge of videos, laser discs and cable televi-

sion.

"The frustration in our country the last two decades is almost without relief..." says film director Marilou Abaya. "This frustration festers in our hearts. Why can't life be better? What do I do with my anger? So we go to the movies to escape reality."

Producers say Filipino tastes in movies vary. In the 1970s and part of the 1980s, film-makers reaped huge profits from "bomba" (bomb) or ST (sex-trip) movies showing half-naked actors and teenage actresses in various acts of love.

Satiated with sex, audi-

ences eventually turned to comedies. This year the trend is towards films dealing with heinous crimes and true-to-life action stories featuring characters forced by injustices to defy the law.

Robin Padilla, the country's most popular young actor, says movies dealing with violence appeal to Filipinos because they see and read about violence every day.

"Those kinds of movies appeal to people because that is what is happening in our society. Maybe those movies will disappear if our society also changes," he

said in an interview.

Padilla, son of an assassinated politician, has had scrapes with the law both on and off the screen, and is fighting two court cases on charges of illegal possession of guns.

One of his big hits was a movie based on the life of his brother, an alleged car thief killed by the police.

Industry workers say the appeal of films dealing with the exploits of criminals can be traced to Filipinos' frustration with their own society.

"We're sick and tired of following rules because they

bring us nowhere. You want to rebel against conformity, against these rules but you can't do it on your own so you do it through the stars in the movies," Abaya said.

"It's called projection aspiration. You find fulfilment, salvation even in the defeat of the anti-hero. Films about criminals become a redemption for the Filipino audience."

This largely explains, producers say, why three-quarters of the 130-odd movies produced annually in the Philippines are action films or police dramas.

But actress-singer Sharon

Cuneta, the "mega-star" of local show business, shuns sex and violence, preferring Cinderella-type movies in which she plays an underdog who triumphs over her adversaries.

"That's a formula movie I've always had," said Cuneta, the daughter of a Manila suburban mayor. "People go to watch movies to escape from their problems (and) be entertained. I'd like to give my audience what they want."

Like many of the millions of Cuneta fans around the country, Rose Ladio, a 17-year-old Manila res-

taurant waitress, cries inside the cinema every time she watches the films of her favourite star.

"She makes me forget my problems," Ladio said.

A typical Cuneta melodrama in 1991 broke box office records, grossing 53 million pesos (\$1.8 million) in a week's screening around Manila. She hopes to top it with another action comedy soon.

Despite producers' complaints that cable television and pirated video recordings are hurting the industry, actors and actresses say movies will continue to be the number one form of

popular entertainment for impoverished Filipinos.

A study shows that box office hits usually occur when the economy is depressed, says sociology Professor Laura Samson.

"People want escape for different motivations. In highly industrialised countries, pop culture thrives because of the robot-like existence, the routine and boredom," Samson said.

"What gives pop culture life in underdeveloped countries is the conditions of misery. Filipino movies do not just entertain. Like religion, they sell hope."

# Los Lobos remain obstinate after 20 years

**By Dean Goodman**  
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — It has been 20 years since five young Mexican-Americans formed a band called Los Lobos in East Los Angeles and set out on an idiosyncratic journey to a faded position among American roots musicians.

The lineup remains the same, as does the band's credo of playing from the heart and just seeing what happens. Yet Los Lobos have also kept up with the times — albeit according to their own clock — and the band seems as relevant as ever.

A 41-song compilation

marking the anniversary "Just Another Band From East L.A.: A Collection" covers the band's extensive repertoire of rollicking barrio (neighbourhood) party tunes, poignant tales of the Latino experience in a strange land, through to gritty soul and blues-laced numbers.

Included are a few choice covers including live versions of Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On?", Cream's "Politician" and the Grateful Dead's "Bertha." These songs attest to the vast range of influences that Los Lobos draw from.

Unfortunately, most people's knowledge of Los Lobos begins and ends with the traditional Mexican

song La Bamba, which earned the band a "freak" worldwide hit in 1987.

In part Los Lobos are to blame since they realised that "La Bamba", from the movie of the same name about the late Ritchie Valens, threatened to typecast them as an easy-listening covers band. Or worse, a novelty act.

"We ended up with a whole wall of fans who didn't know us apart from that one song," says the band's drummer Louie Perez, who shares songwriting duties with singer-guitarist David Hidalgo.

"We were in a little bit of a mess there that we had to get ourselves out of (and) it took us a couple of records

to get that out of our system."

Instead of releasing a follow-up album of La Bamba-type tunes to ensure the continuation of middle-America's "perverse" love affair with them, Los Lobos broke it off by releasing an album of traditional, Spanish-language songs.

"La Pistola Y El Corazon" won them their second Grammy, and rid them of the "La Bamba" crowd. Commercial success at the record stores may have eluded them ever since but Los Lobos wouldn't have it any other way.

Critics cannot heap enough praise on each new Los Lobos album, and their

live performances are remarkable.

"We still work really hard to make ends meet," Perez says. "To keep the artistic control of what we do requires a lot of work, and it would have been real easy for us a long time ago to kind of compromise ourselves and come up with a real campy little thing and make a whole bunch of money that wouldn't have lasted very long anyway."

Perez says there is a timelessness to the compilation with old songs like A Matter Of Time and their signature tune Will The Wolf Survive? still retaining their lustre.

"If I was going to do it all over again, I don't think I

would do it much differently," he says. "A lot of bands kinda have this certain trajectory where they shoot for that gold ring and, I dunno, once you get there, you're done."

An indication of Los Lobos' future path lies in one of the compilation's new songs New Zanda, a grungy little ditty recorded on a four-track cassette. However, Perez thinks it could be another year before they release a follow-up studio album to last year's masterpiece, Kiko, and who knows what ingredients they will come up with by then?

In the meantime they are working on a soundtrack for

the next film by El Mariachi director Robert Rodriguez.

Perhaps one regret about Los Lobos' success is that few other Mexican-American "bands" have taken advantage of the attention and jumped from neighbourhood to club circuit.

Perez thinks that ethnic groups often tend to cut themselves off because they're almost shy about bringing their special brand to a wider audience. Also their fans at home often don't want to lose the bands to the mainstream.

These days none of the band actually lives in East L.A. Perez himself lives in San Diego. Los Lobos have done their neighbourhood

proud, but some things don't change.

"When we started out in '73, it was unheard of for young people to be playing Mexican music. Everything wanted to homogenise and assimilate as far as teenagers go," Perez says.

"We have been kinda like heroes to the Mexican-American people, but when it comes down to it, young people will still listen to whatever's hip, trendy.

That's the nature of being young, wanting to be part of something that's much bigger than where you come from.

"Our presence is still there and I hope it has some influence."

# Russian poet sees new union of former Soviet republics

**By Christopher Wilson**  
Reuters

HANOVER, New Hampshire — Yevgeny Yevtushenko, the modern Russian poet best known by the West, has a vision that the fierce surge of nationalism that splintered the former Soviet Union will dissipate and a new unity emerge in the land he calls "the giant space."

"The Soviet Union, in my opinion, will be resurrected under new name, without the dictate of Moscow, without the rule of the (Communist) Party. It doesn't matter how we will call the next union, but I think it will save the country," he says.

Arms flying he bursts into a stream of anecdotes ex-

tolling the virtues of Georgian wine, the wonders of Russian theatre, its actors, the cinema, the cultural richness of the flur-flung republics. "We need each other," he says.

It is as if he cannot imagine life without them.

"Not everything in the old Soviet Union was bad," Yevtushenko said during an hour-long interview at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire where gave a reading of his poems and screened his film Stalin's Funeral.

"I hope that the destructive microbes of nationalism will slowly disappear."

For Yevtushenko, one of a generation of Russian poets who came to prominence in the mid-1950s

period of "de-Stalinisation", it is a plea from the heart.

The tall Siberian-born poet, now 60, still flamboyant and almost as famous for his brightly coloured suits and outrageous ties as he is for his poetry, has devoted much of his life and his best work to attacking anti-Semitism, nationalism, chauvinism.

His most famous poem Babi Yar, written in 1961, describes his reaction as a 29-year-old to seeing the infamous ravine in the suburbs of Kiev where the Nazis killed thousands of Soviets during World War II.

"Such dread comes over me I feel as old today as the people itself... I am each

old man shot dead here/ I am every child shot dead here... No part of me shall ever forget."

Angry, challenging and restless, Yevtushenko was described as "ungovernable" by former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, who nonetheless came to respect him.

"I am very proud to be part of a generation of poets who were the grandfathers of perestroika," he says.

"The political stage after Stalin was completely empty. On this empty stage appeared the slim figures of some young poets, who began to ask for democracy against the monopoly of the party, against anti-Semitism and Chauvinism."

(Mikhail) Gorbachev

was father of perestroika," he says with a smile. "But we were grandfathers."

His poetry readings are mercurial, spellbinding performances that alternately enthral, chill and envelop the audience in images of tragedy as his voice first booms and then drops to a whisper.

Yet these soaring recitals have prompted criticism that his poetry gains much from the oral delivery — sometimes masking a lack of substance and looseness of structure.

Yevtushenko's popularity in both East and West has been accompanied by frequent controversy and literary and political criticism.

Notable Soviet emigres like poet and Nobel laureate

Joseph Brodsky claimed he swayed like a reed in the political winds, managing to live comfortably with the hardline Communist regimes of Khrushchev and Leonid Brezhnev and later leaping to the forefront of "glasnost". In 1989 he won election to the first Soviet parliament.

Yet Yevtushenko was often hampered and censored by the old regime and protested loudly in 1974 when Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn was arrested and expelled to the West.

His interview with Reuters took place just 30 miles (50 km) from Cavendish, Vermont, where Solzhenitsyn has lived in exile since 1976. But Yevtushenko has

had no contact with his compatriot writer since he was rebuffed several years ago.

"When Solzhenitsyn was arrested in Moscow I called to KGB headquarters to protest. I even romantically said that if Solzhenitsyn was not released I would die on the barricades," said Yevtushenko.

"I did everything I could to support him because I respect him very much. I think he deserves a monument in Russia."

"But then I called him up three or four years ago. I got answer from some of his people that he was very busy. Since then I have no contact."

Despite his optimism,

Yevtushenko says transformation can only take place through gradual evolution and warns that Russia must guard against "changing the dictatorship of the party for the dictatorship of factory owners."

"I don't want forced capitalism. We need economic and spiritual development and it's better to do it together."

He will not be pressed to comment on the new constitution proposed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

"I do not bet on the names, but I do bet on the ideas," says Yevtushenko. "It doesn't matter who is the president of Russia. I just wish it would be Mr. common sense."

# Art thieves drawn by rich vein of East European treasures

**By Jeremy Smith**  
Reuters

PRAGUE — International art thieves, taking advantage of relaxed post-Communist borders, are plundering Eastern Europe's art treasures to sell in the prosperous West.

The problem, often involving organised gangs, has taken on such proportions that European art experts are joining forces with the international police

organisation Interpol to try and curb a flourishing trade in priceless peices of art.

"This illegal trade is organised by Western gangs who are buying up the objects to sell them later at a profit in various Western European countries," Jose Luis Alvarez, a Spanish expert on cultural heritage, told a meeting of art experts and international police officials in Prague last month.

"The sums they pay here (in the Czech Republic) are

vastly inferior to what they expect to make from their sales in the West," Mr. Alvarez told Reuters.

Officials said that since Eastern Europe began opening its borders after the collapse of communism in 1989, smuggling of art objects to Germany and Austria had boomed.

The Czech Republic has been a favourite target, not least because border police have to handle an enormous flood of visitors — 54 mil-

lion in the first 10 months of 1993 — which makes effective controls virtually impossible.

In the most spectacular case of art theft to date, four Picasso paintings worth an estimated \$30 million, were taken from Prague's National Gallery in 1991. The works, including the famous Port Of Cadagues, were eventually recovered.

One of the stolen paintings, Absinthe And Playing Card, was picked up by

German police in a Bavarian railway station.

Experts say the usual smuggling route leads through what the Czech police call "the green frontier" — the deep woods along the borders with Austria and Germany.

"At first it was pure amateurs (who were involved)," said Daniela Maraskova of the Czech Culture Ministry's Galleries and Museums Department in an interview.

"But recently it seems that well-organised gangs are stealing on the orders of other people interested in a particular piece."

According to Mr. Alvarez, northern European countries have been traditional buyers of East European art. "That (Western Europe) is where the transactions are going..." he said.

Like other countries in post-Communist Europe, the Czech Republic saw

much of its best art disappear even before communism fell and the borders opened.

"The previous (Communist) regime quite purposefully exported part of the Czech national heritage for hard currency, especially items which it had left unlisted so that their export was half-legal," Deputy Culture Minister Ladislav Kratochvil told the Prague conference.

Before 1989, security

around art treasures in the Communist Bloc was generally more lax but the authorities compensated for this by fortifying borders to prevent smuggling to the West.

The scale of the illegal art trade has provoked a stormy debate over the state's position on the national heritage, with public opinion galvanised into action by a series of thefts since the Communists left power.



# Prevention is still the message as the world marks AIDS Day

By Cynthia Johnson  
Reuter

LONDON — The central message for World AIDS day last week remained that prevention is still the only defence against the killer disease while researchers battle on to find a cure or vaccination.

Since 1988, Dec. 1 has been designated as a day of observance designed to boost the world-wide fight against AIDS and many countries have organised a full week of fund-raising, educational and memorial activities.

Pop concerts and condom

give-aways, candlelight memorials and street plays were among the events organised globally to raise awareness of the disease and mourn its victims.

"Ignorance, complacency and prejudice are the biggest obstacles to containing the AIDS epidemic internationally," says Tony Keenan, national president of the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations.

Mr. Keenan and other local World AIDS Day organisers say that in developed countries AIDS — which cripples the body's immune system — is still

often regarded as afflicting homosexuals or drug users and is not seen as a wider health threat.

Sydney was one of the cities taking part in the "night without light" in which the lights in buildings and on bridges and monuments will be switched off for 15 minutes in memory of those who have died from AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

Among the fund raising events for AIDS charities was the Princess of Wales "concert of hope" in London. Organisers of the pop concert — featuring George Michael, K.D. Lang and

others — said this is the first time a member of the British royal family has put their name to such an event, which is intended to be held annually.

Princess Diana is a strong supporter of AIDS charities and has campaigned to raise awareness of the disease.

In Washington, Tony and Grammy award-winning singer Jennifer Holliday and other performers took part in "Voices Of Hope", a gala tribute and benefit.

In France, one of the European countries worst affected by AIDS, personalities such as actresses Catherine Deneuve and

Jane Birkin have recorded messages for the country's first "travelling" radio station dedicated to the disease.

The station broadcasted from a special train that left Paris for a 10-day tour of the country.

Germany — rocked by a scandal over blood products tainted by the HIV virus that causes AIDS — is launching an international plaque-laying project called "names and stones".

The plaques bear the names of those who died from AIDS. "The aim is to ensure people don't forget about AIDS or its victims,"

said a spokeswoman for the German AIDS Foundation.

The Health Ministry in Turkey has enlisted Muslim preachers to warn their congregations about the dangers of AIDS and how to avoid the disease. AIDS information sheets were distributed to Turkey's estimated 60,000 mosques.

The Bombay-based Indian health organisation's campaign included a procession by prostitutes, street plays and the distribution of condoms at crowded suburban railway stations.

China, whose 1.2 billion

population is statistically one of the least affected by AIDS, frequently dismisses the illness as a "foreigner's disease."

But Beijing is looking more seriously at campaigns to prevent infection. A cabinet-sponsored working group is devising a national plan which may be announced soon.

The Geneva-based World Health Organisation (WHO) has estimated that by the middle of this year about 14 million people were infected with HIV, more than 13 million of them adults. About eight million of the adult infec-

tions were in sub-Saharan Africa.

More men than women are HIV-infected but the gap is narrowing as heterosexual transmission becomes more common. The WHO estimates that by the year 2000 the number of new infections among women will approach that of men.

By the end of the decade the WHO conservatively projects that there will be between 30 million and 40 million HIV infections. Other projections put the total as high as 100 million to 120 million.

## An AIDS grave for nearly every rural Uganda house

By Rowena Whelan  
Reuter

NKOKKO, Uganda — Nearly every house has an AIDS grave in much of rural Uganda and even the health workers are dying.

"We didn't foresee a couple of years ago that a number of people we were training would die," says Eamonn Brehony of the Irish-based charity Concern Worldwide. He has waged a losing battle against the disease in Uganda's impoverished countryside since 1990.

The World Health Organisation says the campaign against AIDS in Africa, which has about one-third of the world's 700,000 reported cases, has failed to make any progress.

Uganda, where cases were first discovered in 1982, is among the worst hit. Community workers say the official tally of 41,193 cases reported to government monitors by June is only a tiny fraction of the problem.

Christine Kagwa sits crumpled under a tree outside her hut in the southern village of Nkokko. Her hus-

band died of an illness associated with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and she has been battling the disease for three years. Her wasted features are more those of an old woman than a 35-year-old mother of five.

Her link with the world of the living is her neighbour Betty Ssonko, another AIDS widow, who treats her ailments with herbs, cleans her clothes, brings her water, firewood and friendship.

"She comes and visits me. She brings me a little of what she has. She is very kind to me," Kagwa says.

But today, Ssonko won't be coming.

She is too weak from her own AIDS-related illness to walk the few hundred metres from her village shop to Christine's farm among the banana plantations.

Ssonko, 36, is one of nearly 1,000 Ugandan women trained by Concern to provide basic home care, including traditional herbal remedies.

Brehony said four of the women have died.

"Now we encourage

them to work in pairs so they can teach each other, and then if one falls sick the other is there to help out," he said.

Further south, close to the shore of Lake Victoria, is the small town of Kirumba. It is in Rakai district, an underdeveloped region shunned even by Ugandans after it was one of the first places in the world to report AIDS cases.

More than a decade later, its people are living a nightmare in a killing grounds for AIDS. Deaths are too numerous to be mourned in traditional fashion of days and nights of collective grief.

"I would honestly say AIDS has touched every household at this stage," Brehony said. "There's nobody around here who hasn't buried someone close, and by close I mean a father or mother, a brother or sister, a son or a daughter."

He said AIDS was to blame for around three quarters of the estimated 1,000 deaths in Kirumba in the last two years, out of a population of around 22,000 in 1991.

"The vast, vast majority of these would have died of AIDS," he said. "But we wouldn't know the exact numbers because we don't test for AIDS" — testing being too costly for a dirt-poor country like Uganda.

Here there are no hospital AIDS wards with professional nurses, no life-saving wonder drugs, no expensive pain killers.

All the doomed have to rely upon is traditional herbal remedies to ease the pain and care from their neighbours — some of whom are also dying.

Sister Ursula Sharpe of Kitovu Hospital, in Masaka district, adjacent to Rakai, said her mobile care unit alone was treating more than 2,000 full blown AIDS cases, based on World Health Organisation criteria for identifying the disease.

"We have a lot of deaths caused by AIDS," said George William Ssentume, chairman of the local council in Kirumba. "From here to the third house we have lost about seven people."

The seven included his

wife and twins. He won't remarry for fear of transmitting the disease.

AIDS is largely spread by heterosexual sex in Africa. Ugandan men traditionally have multiple partners; either in formal polygamous marriages or informal affairs, feeding the equally high incidents of HIV and

AIDS.

Ugandan health authorities say nearly 1,500,000 people — equivalent to about 10 per cent of the population — carry HIV, the virus that can cause AIDS. They say the rate is highest among the young generation, especially girls and women aged between 12 and 25.

In pre-AIDS days condoms were virtually unknown in Uganda. Health workers say they are now widely accepted and used. In some parts of Africa condoms are regarded as passports to promiscuity.

Ssonko and Kagwa were almost certainly infected by

their husbands.

"My husband died in 1990," Kagwa said, tallying the deaths just in her own family.

"Eight brothers of my husband died, and six sisters or half sisters. Three of my own brothers died... but no sisters."

"My sisters are okay."

## Orphans eke a living in AIDS-ravaged Uganda

By Rowena Whelan  
Reuter

LUWAWOLO, Uganda — Neglected orphans struggle to survive after their parents die in Uganda's AIDS-ravaged countryside.

Since the deaths of her subsistence-farmer parents, 17-year-old Nalubega Regina has been head of household for three younger siblings in this village in Rakai, the first district of Uganda to report AIDS in 1982 and one of the worst-hit areas.

She and her brother Matovu, 15, set to work in fields almost as soon as they awake — Nalubega hoeing a vegetable patch and Matovu breaking ground for planting with a broad-bladed pick.

With no animals to plough, land clearance and planting is exhausting hand labour.

Nine-year-old Kasita John and his little sister Namugunya Prossy, eight, wash in muddy water from the swamp behind the hut, then set off barefoot on an hour-long walk to school.

On one day none of them had breakfast — there was not enough food in the hut.

Like the poorest of the poor elsewhere in rural Uganda, these children live on the margins of their community, left destitute and almost forgotten by neighbours when their parents died.

Aid workers cannot swear they are among the 120,000 Ugandan children officially estimated each year to lose one or both parents due to acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Tests to prove AIDS infection are too expensive in impoverished Uganda and in any event both parents of these orphans were buried before the children were found living in squalor by the charity Concern Worldwide in 1992.

But Concern workers said it is all too likely they are AIDS orphans.

"By the time we came across this family, they were in a very poor state. It was horrible," said Concern's Joseph Samulala.

"The parents had died, suspected of AIDS, they (the children) were being neglected, not being cared for by anyone in their village. The house they were living in was nearly falling in on them."

Nalubega used to have to go out to work every day to dig other people's fields to earn food. Matovu roamed the

village half wild, like many AIDS orphans.

The leaky two-room hut where they slept and cooked was smoky and cramped. Untended, much of their land had returned to scrub.

In some ways they were lucky.

They had kept their land and were together as a family, unlike many of the orphans surveyed by the Uganda community-based Association for Child Welfare (UCOBAC) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

UCOBAC, an umbrella group for child welfare groups, found the land of orphans was often grabbed by their dead father's relatives and livestock sold without their consent.

Orphan girls are liable to being married off early for a dowry or put on child labour markets as housemaids.

The United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, has forecast that 140,000 children a year will lose one or both parents to AIDS by the year 2000.

Uganda's government, aware of the problem but too financially strapped to deal adequately with such numbers of needy children, welcomes help from U.N., Islamic, Western and African charities.

Concern gave Nalubega and her family seeds and hoes for planting, and materials for a new house — wood for poles, a door and a window, nails and reeds for the roof.

Villagers provided mud for the walls, water to mix it and the labour to build a simple home. Neighbourhood children cleared land for crops in return for Concern paying their school fees.

Concern also pays for Kasita's and Namugunya's primary schooling, just two among 10,000 children provided with basic education by the Irish-based charity in Rakai.

But life remains tough for these peasant children who rarely smile.

As the heat of the day rises, Matovu leaves the fields in search of mushrooms for their evening meal, then for firewood.

Nalubega weaves palm leaves into mats which she takes to market every three months, earning about 6,000 Ugandan shillings (\$5) to buy essentials such as soap, salt and kerosene.

When homegrown food is short, Nalubega still goes out to dig in exchange for bananas.

The only sign of childhood games is a model house the children have built in the dirt yard.

## Researchers warn parents on AIDS risks

By Carl Winter  
Reuter

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — Rutgers University researchers warned parents of children who may be at risk for AIDS to take strict precautions after doctors found an unusual case of transmission among two unrelated children.

Two doctors studying AIDS cases in children have discovered a rare case of the disease in which one child infected another while in the care of a foster home.

"This was a one in 500,000, even one in a million, occurrence," said Dr. Lawrence Frankel, professor of pediatrics and co-author of an article on the case to appear in the Dec. 16 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

"Even so, parents with one sibling being HIV-positive should take universal precautions," Prof. Frankel told Reuters in a telephone interview. HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus, the virus that is

thought to cause AIDS.

Parents should make sure youngsters do not share a toothbrush or that blood or body fluids be allowed to contact an open sore if one child is HIV-positive, Prof. Frankel said.

The children in the case were two and five years of age, the doctors have said. Doctors are reluctant to give more details on their identities.

Prof. Frankel said the two children shared a toothbrush and one had gum disease. Doctors were also studying the possibility, Prof. Frankel said, that the older child, who was HIV-positive, had "occasional nosebleeds" at a time when the younger child had a skin rash with an open sore.

Prof. Frankel cautioned against using the findings as a reason for segregating HIV-positive children in schools.

"Nothing in our research indicates that these youngsters cannot attend school or do whatever a normal child would do," said Prof.

## SOLUTIONS

### PUZZLES

(A) INSERT THE MISSING NUMBER

(35) Multiply the three numbers outside the triangle, and divide by two.

\*\*\*\*\*

(B) DISENTANGLED LETTERS

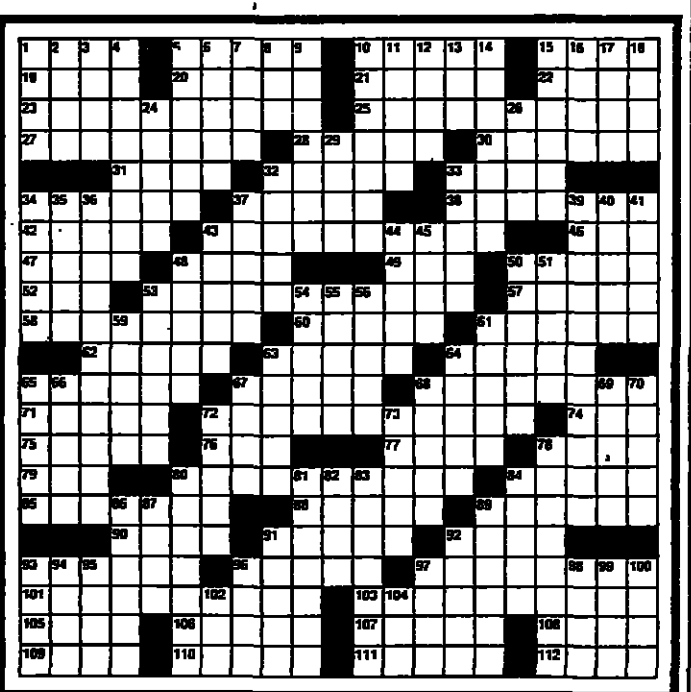
SLFIGH. (Unlike the CART, the TRUCK, the BiCYCLE and the CARRIAGE, the SLEIGH has no wheels).

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT  
By Nevea Archer

- ACROSS
1. Hit song
  2. Garter
  3. One-name singer
  4. Self prof.
  5. Bathhouse
  6. Husband
  7. More competent
  8. Glorified
  9. Hollywood question: "What's hot?"
  10. "A" — to "indie"
  11. Woodwinds
  12. Eskimo knives
  13. Locomotive
  14. Type of battery
  15. Intense
  16. Drug
  17. Rich, type
  18. Painter
  19. Bonheur
  20. Window part
- DOWN
1. Forsaken child
  2. German art
  3. "O'clock"
  4. Looks at books
  5. Secrecy
  6. Contests
  7. Author Fleming
  8. Ta-ta
  9. "A" — to "indie"
  10. Woodwinds
  11. Eskimo knives
  12. Locomotive
  13. Type of battery
  14. Intense
  15. Drug
  16. Rich, type
  17. Painter
  18. Bonheur
  19. Window part

- ACROSS
36. "In their beds"
  42. Rosaceous herb
  43. "White, that was"
  46. Sue — London
  47. Some zodiac
  48. Job
  49. "Of the land"
  50. "Dot"
  51. Do the human
  52. Which one?
  53. Comedian draws
  54. "Table setting item"
  55. Constructed in
  56. Motion picture
  57. Bohemian
  58. Siles
  59. Prehistoric axe
  60. Starts
  61. Talking to court
- DOWN
21. Goes astray
  22. County
  23. Power part
  24. Packaging
  25. "Should"
  26. "Leave You"
  27. "Cheer"
  28. Regular go home?
  29. Wild duck
  30. Which movie star
  31. Winding and
  32. "dancer"
  33. "Lovers' journey"
  34. Kelly and
  35. Baseball brothers
  36. "A Touch of"
  37. Swiss river
  38. Forest of
  39. Gushes suddenly

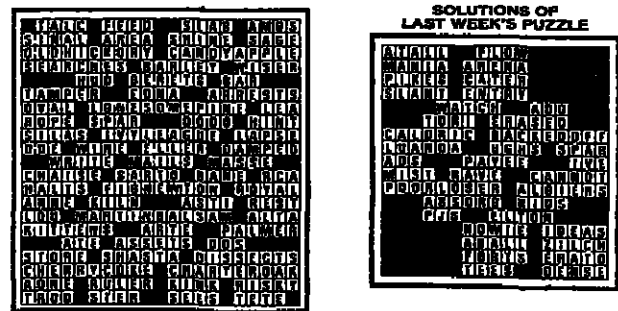


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Doughty, feisty sailor sought a draught of ale to assuage his long lingering thirst.
2. Forcing down tears, shy stripper runs off stage while rowdy crowd yells, "Put it on."
3. Hospitalised hospital workers enheartened disabled patients who need kindness.
4. Good newsmen will search out such meaningful facts as who, how, what, when and where.

### CRYPTOGRAMS

1. FCAGY AH IYCTENDUTL IN BUET DCKLNIR HIDNACK INNTSTSS GRFR FRILL DRILL. —By Ed Huddleston
2. CT AIE BRIV AIEGFVST BII FVGCIFPSA. RPHV HI IHV ZCSS BRIV AIE RHAZPGV. —By Gordon Miller
3. NONSTA WGR NREUSJWSH GYNNYN ZYER. JRERNK GOTMNRH HOJWYZRNJ BKZR YOW JHNKZSTA. —By Eugene T. Maleska
4. DRPUY NSREPM YAEK TOM THEK-GURTU BRE BRE BOUND SATS GANG. —By Frank N. Stein



SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



## Deputies conclude assessment of government policy statement

(Continued from page 4)

people's expectations. I call on the two sides to prove that the democratic march is not a struggle between the executive and the legislative authorities. Some members of the executive authority have, regrettably, made statements to the contrary, which gave the impression that the deputies had their eyes on the ministers' jobs.

Furthermore, the government, instead of coming up with a policy statement clearly defining its future programme, merely supplied us with the names of new Cabinet members.

I demand that measures be taken to allow more students from the Badia and rural regions of Jordan to acquire university education. Only by being fair to the students of these regions can we be just and provide opportunities for all, on equitable basis.

**Suleiman Sa'ad Raimoni**  
(Jarah)  
(IAF)

There is no indication in the government's policy statement of its intention to implement Islamic sharia despite the fact that the second article of the Constitution states that the religion of the country is Islam.

It was also mentioned in the statement that the government was neutral during the elections period and provided equality and freedom to all. I do not want to question the government on the validity of such a claim neither do I want to ask it to reveal the identities of those who were distributing brochures against the Islamic stream candidates... but I would like to ask about its silence over the cooperation that existed between some government employees and some candidates while it imposed restrictions on the Islamic stream and carried out transfer procedures of the Islamic Action Front employees...

As to the peace process, I would like to hear the government's response on whether the normalisation now includes tackling the issue of modifying our school curricula in a manner that would not harm the Jews since they expressed their deep dissatisfaction with the present curricula.

Where do you stand on the education philosophy that is based on faith to God and belief in the Arab values?

What is the role of the government in giving financial allocations to religious institutions that have a positive impact on this country, culturally, socially and spiritually?

**Saleh Irbaidat**  
(Irbid District)  
(PDC)

The fact that the 12th Parliament is in session now is a manifestation of the march of democracy in Jordan and the decision to hold the elections on schedule was a clear sign of Jordan's total commitment to democracy.

But the objective of the parliamentary elections is to have a government that reflects the results of those elections. The prime minister should have taken this into consideration and included Parliament members — most of whom proved to be centrists — in his Cabinet. He should have consulted with the Parliament, whose deputies represent the Jordanian people. This policy does not obstruct cooperation between the executive and the legislative authorities, rather it enhances democratic norms in this country.

We had welcomed a meeting between the prime minister and parliamentarian blocs, but we were disappointed to see that the meeting was not dedicated to consultations about government business or about prospects for joint action in the coming stage.

These developments and the government's disregard of the parliamentarians' views have had their negative impact on the deputies although many of the democratic alliance members had earlier informed the prime minister that they were willing to cooperate with his government.

We appreciate the government's stand regarding the holding of the elections on schedule and its firm, national, daring stand vis-a-vis the peace process, but, I am not satisfied with the government's actions concerning recent appointments to senior government positions and the arbitrary transfer of others or their retirement.

We would have liked to see a clear government programme handling such pressing questions as those related to higher education, to non-Jordanian workers living in the country to the agricultural, housing and other sectors.

I demand that Jordan's commitment to the economic res-

structuring programmes, agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund, be carried out on Jordanian terms and in a manner that would take into consideration its impact on the local society.

I demand that the government grant more tax exemptions for new projects in order to encourage investments, to reexamine the taxation system, to support the construction sector and to pass to law on the teachers' union.

I will give my vote according to the government's reply to the House.

**Nazih Ammarin**  
(Karak District) (PDC)

We had wished to hear a government statement providing a mechanism for the implementation of the contents of the Speech from the Throne. Unfortunately, the government did not respond favourably to this wish and has ignored the aspirations of the new Parliament, thus committing a constitutional violation.

Another violation was the termination of the constitutional mandate of the 11th Parliament.

The government of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shakir was formed when Parliament was still holding its mandate, although not in session, but that government did not resort to terminating the Parliament.

Also, we would have preferred to see the government representing the various blocs in Parliament so that everyone can share the responsibilities, but we were surprised to see, instead, a doctor serving as a minister of public works, a judge as minister of transport and an educationist serving as minister of municipal and rural affairs.

In addition, the man in the street is worried over the government's current tendency to favour certain centres of power in this country. I believe that such a policy would consecrate a system in which certain factions would wield power over the others, something which would breed administrative corruption that one can by no means condone.

Jordanians are also complaining from continual rise in the prices of various commodities and are fearful that the lifting of subsidies on basic consumer items could open the door for further rises in prices, as well as face the heavy taxation policies imposed by the government.

Jordanians complain about lack of equal opportunities as they believe that they could not achieve anything unless they belonged to one of these centres of power. Apart from the question of unemployment, which the government has not dealt with yet, Jordanian employees feel that their salaries are losing value.

**Mahmoud Huweim**  
(Karak District)  
(Independent)

I tried, through my reading of the government's policy statement and in remembrance of the meeting we had with the prime minister, to find a positive formula of cooperation and coordination, but in vain... It was harder than I thought... They want democracy under the dome only, and in words solely.

The predominant atmosphere of the past six months, which resulted in lots of difficulties and in which democracy was absent from the government's institutions and the government, made it impossible to solve people's problems... and the government's attempt to persuade us that it is seeking reform and renewal are difficult, if not impossible to believe.

Do you know, Mr. Prime Minister, that for so many years a very limited number of my village's residents have passed the tawjihi exam? I would like the government to hear that the blame, all the blame, falls on you... We have never had qualified teachers... How do you, Mr. Prime Minister, talk about decentralisation, without having the qualified cadres capable of assuming such a responsibility?

My region needs just the bare minimum to survive... I would like to ask the government: What do we plant...? When do we plant...? And for whom do we plant? The farmer cannot afford to pay for the price of water, how can he provide food for his family? I have full confidence in the master of this country and his leadership in his tackling of the negotiations talks to achieve peace that would satisfy the future generations.

My giving or denying the government the vote of confidence will depend on the government's response.

**Fawzi Tueimehil**  
Balqa District (NAF)  
I believe that the political

attention in Jordan is now focused on the PLO-Israel deal and I demand that Jordan play a role which should conform with the country's historic and principles stands.

Jordan has the right to regain its usurped land and to participate in working out solutions for various issues and outstanding problems like the water, borders and population, economy, workforce and others.

I demand that Parliament, which represents the people of Jordan, play a key role in this participation alongside the executive authority. This because the peace process and its results are not restricted to demarcation of borders.

According to international organisations, liberating trade in the region, allowing free flow of workers and capital and launching economic ventures require sound economic planning.

As a country burdened with debts, we have a great deal of social and economic problems and I am afraid that we have not prepared anything for the coming stage.

I therefore demand, among other things, that the negotiating team submit to Parliament all the facts about progress of the peace process and the preparedness deal with the economic situation.

**Jamal Sarairoh**  
(Karak District)  
(Independent Islamist)

Why this manner of dealing with people? Why doesn't the government apply the Constitution and resign?... As to the relationship between the government and the former Parliament, we find that the government had highly underestimated it... and as a compensation for that Parliament's achievements, the government had dissolved it... Is this the healthy relationship between the legislative and the executive powers that we are yearning for in the democratic era?

Following the dissolution of Parliament, the government felt at ease and introduced the temporary election law, which, at the onset, claimed that the law will not be issued before an in-depth national debate among all political parties and groupings... Far from reality.

What did your government do to Mutha University in the past six months, in line with His Majesty King Hussein's directives?... The university has never been fortunate enough to have a stable presidency...

The government is the shadow of a party... if such a party (Ahd) had a majority in Parliament, exceeding forty members for example, it would have been natural to form a

government in accordance with the democratic norms and regulations, but to have a "minority" party that possesses all this influence and power on the government and its decisions... is very dangerous.

**Abdul Mun'em Abu Zant**  
(Amman Second District)  
(IAF)

In the first page of the government's statement policy, it stipulates the protection of our national unity... How can national unity be achieved under the one-person, one-vote law which has consecrated tribalism and sectarianism?

On page 23, the statement states that the government endeavours "to continue its efforts to solve the unemployment problem and poverty"... I do not know where this comprehensive development plan to solve the problems of poverty, and unemployment which led to the spread of crime and immorality is... one of the government's efforts was to increase the salaries of its ministers and augment the prices of goods and food items to the public... As to the increase in the salaries of the deputies... it is immoral for the government to take such a decision before it gets the vote of confidence because it is considered as giving a bribe...

The government's statement, unfortunately, was unfair to women's issues and neglected their rights and duties while the government does not stop to boast that women make up half of the society... But great Islam considers the woman as the basic pillar of the society... I advise the government to submit its resignation...

**Mohammad Aweidah**  
Balqa District (IAF)

Through its senseless measures the government has caused harm to public freedoms through its handling of the elections. In the Balqa camp for instance, these measures obstructed the voting process. Policemen at the entrance to one of the Baqaa Camp voting centres used to ask the women voters who did they want to elect? If the answer was Mohammad Aweidah then the policeman would examine their papers and find a reason for turning them away.

The government measures confused the public and prompted people to ask what is next in the election procedures? The government illegally introduced the one-person, one-vote system, the voting card system and demanded other requirements to make the voting process all the more difficult.

With these measures, the government caused a crack in the walls of national unity and made things worse.

It pursued efforts that ran contrary to the principle of equal opportunity and fairness in admission of students to universities, in employment and in providing services to various governorates.

The Baqaa basin, for example, is inhabited by more than half of the population of the Baqaa region but still lack basic services and any government department except police stations and water and electricity fares collection offices. It is true that the Baqaa refugee camp is largely the responsibility of the United Nations, but I am talking about the whole Baqaa region which embodies the camp and many other villages.

Concerning the 1994 budget, I call on my colleagues to refrain from approving it unless it includes raises for government employees and pensioners.

We should take lessons from the situation prevailing in the neighbouring Arab states where social unrest is devastating these countries. This is largely due to the feelings of despair and due to state injustice, repression and disregard to human dignity.

With the 1989 elections we embarked a meaningful democracy. We hoped the present government would pursue the path towards democracy, but regrettably it took many steps backwards. The government dissolved parliament for no reason in order to have a free hand in handling the country's affairs and to pass the unconstitutional one-person, one-vote election system.

If we claim that we have security I dare to ask where are the security services doing to curtail immoral behaviour in the streets and in the hotels and the video tape stores?

I stress here that the struggle against the Jews is one of ideology, culture and existence and not mere political struggle. The enemy seeks expansion and aggression on our lands and, therefore, we do not feel safe in Palestine, in Jordan or in the whole of the Arab World.

**Deeb Anis**  
(Zarqa District)  
(IAF)

I urge the government to do its best to return the West

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**Deeb Anis**  
(Zarqa District)  
(IAF)

I urge the government to do its best to return the West

Bank, including Jerusalem, and put it under the reign of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for it was an integral part of it since the early fifties.

The restoration of the West Bank is the only means to reunite the two banks of River Jordan.

The government is therefore asked not to recognise the Israeli state which usurped Arab lands, backed by imperialism.

Regarding Jordan's internal policy, all of us have to cooperate to serve it. The role of the government has to be based upon protecting our country from those who tamper with our national unity, therefore, the government should deal with all governorates on equal footing.

The minister of finance's statement that there would be no increases in the employees' salaries had negative effects on civil and military employees. Thus, I raise my voice and ask for an increase in these people's salaries that matches the rocketing increases in prices of goods.

There are certain sectors in our country who hope the government will consider certain laws such as:

1. Labour
2. Teachers' Association Law
3. The General Union of Jordanian Students
4. Tenancy Law
5. Banning alcohol and introducing the Municipalities' Law.

**Bassam Haddadin**  
Zarqa District (PDC)

The absence of a programme for the government is sufficient for me to withhold vote of confidence and I will do so.

Irrespective of how this government will win the vote of confidence constitutionally and the size of the confidence, I find it a duty to shed light on the government's performance.

This government reminds us of the martial law governments. It seems the political role entrusted to this government has dominated everything else. Since the political process is run in closed rooms away from the eyes of the people, it has become necessary to rearrange the house internally so that people will accept the results. Therefore the government has worked since the very minute it

assumed power to carry out this task, thus causing serious harm to democracy.

Once again, we the representatives of the national democratic opposition, find ourselves facing a new government, at this age of political détente and democracy building and after having pledged in the National Charter to speed our pace to rebuild Jordan, politically economically and socially, and to build the state of institutions and law, the state of social justice and equal opportunities.

After four years since the beginning of the new era, we are facing frenzied attempts to control democracy and adapt it to serve the approach and mind of the martial rule era. This new government, the one-colour government and the democratically isolated government, lacks any social or popular base.

What will the government do to address the problems facing social security and how will it deal with looming dangers threatening the national security?

What is the task of the tripartite Jordanian-American-Israeli committee? What is our policy towards normalisation of relations? What is its commitments towards the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

The government reshuffle involving a number of ministerial portfolios was enforced for no reasons. We do not know why it happened.

Has there been a change in policies that required the appointment of new ministers in the new policies and capable of dealing with them?

I do not think so. Therefore it won't be a surprise for me if I was told that ministerial portfolios are distributed as if in a lottery.

This government ignored this Parliament which represents the people and it insists not to deal seriously with it and to dispose its papers to it and seek its advice on what to do and what not to do.

This government lacks the political will needed to develop and enrich the democratic experience. Pursuing this path means depriving our country from an opportunity to develop our country and enrich our democratic experience.

The government is surrendering to the conditions of the IMF, which organises the process of sucking the blood of the poorest amongst our

people. The government is standing still in the face of the problems of unemployment and poverty which plague our people.

The rate of people living in absolute poverty has reached 21 per cent, according to latest government estimates.

We live in a country where the rich becomes richer and the poor becomes poorer and where benefits and privileges are offered to the haves.

What does the government expect from a citizen who sees that his government is ignoring his concerns and suffering at a time when it gives privileges to the elite who assume senior government posts.

This government of the negotiating delegation which led the negotiations away from our eyes and let us to sign an agenda with Israel, the other face of the Palestinian-Israeli accord, because the so-called agenda is not but an agreement on the bases of the negotiations process.

I am fully convinced that Jordan will be the biggest loser in a settlement. The illusions aired by the media about prospects of development and prospects are nothing but day dreams.

Now, while the second Lower House in the democracy era is about to assume its duties, we want to adopt a frank and clear position free from any compliments to the government.

Is the government serious in resuming the building of a democratic state? Or does it only want to do with some of features of democracy, which has no weight, nor any impact on the decision-making circles?

Our electorates used to ask us every time we urged them to exercise their election right. What is the good of elections? And what can Parliament do?

People want to see what their elected representatives can do.

Therefore I will suggest the House to make the necessary amendments House to make the necessary amendments to ensure that Parliament is immune from disbandment.

I call for enacting a modern and democratic law that will help enhance political pluralism rather than fostering tribal affiliations or individualism.

I also call for the revision of the districts, registration systems and the voter cards and to change the polling supervision system.

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## France seeks more Arab investment in real estate

ABU DHABI (AFP) — France is seeking to attract more investment from wealthy Gulf Arab states into its lucrative real estate sector, taking advantage of its strong political links with them.

Although the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states already have large investments there, France signed an agreement with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) this week to offer more incentives and is planning to finalise similar accords with other GCC members, a French official said Wednesday.

"We are holding contacts with Oman, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to sign similar agreements to encourage them to invest in our real estate sector," French ambassador to the UAE, Bernard Poletti, told reporters. "We think it is the right time now for investment in this sector because prices are very good compared with a few years ago."

Under the agreement signed Sunday, UAE citizens are exempted from taxes on real estate in France provided they have assets in other sectors of a value equal to their investment in real estate.

France and the UAE signed an agreement on avoiding double taxation in 1991 but Sun-

day's accord modified some articles to ensure exemptions for UAE investors from France's "fortune tax", Mr. Poletti said.

The ambassador spoke ahead of France's first real estate exhibition in the UAE, due to open Saturday. Some 12 companies will participate in the show, which follows an "invest in France" seminar in Dubai recently.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the UAE — are the biggest Middle East investors in France and other European Community countries.

Their assets worldwide are estimated at more than \$350 billion, based mostly in the Gulf, mainly in the oil and industrial sectors. It also has shares in several UAE oil companies.

"In the recent period, there has been a stream of UAE

investors into our real estate market given the good facilities and our strong relations," Mr. Poletti said. "Other Gulf states are also investing. We can say that Gulf investments in France's real estate sector are sizeable."

Commercial Attache Claude Comand said the real estate exhibition, the second in the GCC, would be an opportunity for French firms to "explain investment scopes, market conditions and new facilities."

"In the long term, investment in France's real estate sector is very profitable. We decided to hold this exhibition after more and more people are enquiring about such investment opportunities. We believe time is quite right now because the market has adjusted itself," he said.

A brochure provided by the embassy showed direct foreign investment in France jumped to \$17.3 billion in 1992 from \$5.5 billion in 1987.

Total investments have accumulated to \$101 billion, it said.

"This is partly due to a decline in corporate taxes to around 33.3 per cent from 50 per cent over the past five years, making it among the lowest tax in Europe," it added.

## Germany, France unveil telecommunications venture

BRUSSELS (R) — State-owned telecommunications firms in Germany and France unveiled ambitious plans Tuesday for a joint venture which aims to create a new force in the battle for global business communications.

Deutsche Bundespost Telekom of Germany and France Telecom, announcing the signing of a memorandum of understanding, said talks about a further link-up with ATT, the world's largest telecommunications firm, would be concluded soon.

The Franco-German alliance falls far short of a merger but links virtually all of each company's voice and data services

for corporate networks, an emerging market to provide internal communications networks for multinational firms.

"The joint venture between France Telecom and Deutsche Telekom creates a future-oriented foundation to establish a European global player on the world telecommunications market," Deutsche Telekom Chairman Helmut Rieke told a news conference.

The new company, not yet named, will be based in Brussels and is expected to have sales of around 1.5 billion ECU (\$1.70 billion) in 1995, its first year of operations.

Its French and German own-

ers plan to invest a total of one billion ECU (\$1.13 billion) by the year 2000. The company will have around 4,000 employees by 1995.

It will integrate the already-existing Franco-German corporate networks venture, Eutetcom, as well as France's data transfer business Transpac and Telekom's Daxet-P network.

The new venture did not include their GSM digital phone networks and there were no plans for a full merger when the two companies are privatised ahead of liberalisation of the European telecommunications market in 1998.

But Mr. Rieke and his

French counterpart Marcel Roulet said they would consider swapping shares to strengthen their alliance.

"As our ties grow stronger so will the need for a stronger link at the head office and so we do envisage a cross shareholding," Mr. Roulet said.

But Mr. Rieke, seeking to counter market speculation of a full merger of Europe's two biggest telecoms, added: "We are not talking about merging the core businesses of our companies, but rather about indi-

vidual markets."

Telecommunications firms are racing to form alliances to create companies big enough to offer multinational corporations the kinds of communications services needed to link their operations which span the globe.

The Franco-German alliance, which links the world's third and fourth largest telecommunications firms, aims at ensuring a place for a big European company in the world market.

## Christmas is coming, the bonus is getting fat

LONDON (R) — American bankers in London are looking forward to bumper Christmas bonuses of up to \$1 million each, cashing in on volatile interest rate and currency markets.

The U.S. investment bank Goldman Sachs set the ball rolling with high bonuses announced privately to its staff last month and is likely to top the league table of pay packets.

Following suit, C.S. First Boston, Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley and Salomon Brothers informed some staff of their bonuses this week and are among those firms expected to present large Christmas boxes to their most-favoured employees.

Goldman Sachs, whose chief economist Gavin Davies is one of the government's seven advisers or "wise men", is reported to have paid bonuses of more than \$1 million each to nearly 100 of its staff.

The U.S. partnership declined to comment on the reports, but industry professionals think the figures are plausible.

"Most U.S. banks don't pay large base salaries. They are capped at \$100,000 (\$150,000). You may have to divide the bonus by as much as 10 to get

back to the base," said one market source. "If you don't earn a bonus of 100 per cent of your basic, it's time to look for another job."

This year has been a roller-coaster one for interest rate and currency markets, providing scope for arbitrage traders who aim to exploit price differences between markets.

U.S. banks say client trading has been profitable and secondary market bond trading has had a good run, especially in growing sectors like Latin American Eurobonds.

The market is full of anecdotal evidence of large bonus payments, past and present.

"I have known 28- or 29-year-olds who trade derivative books getting half-a-million pounds (\$750,000)," said one banker.

One New York professional at a Japanese bank who set up a London derivatives desk for the firm is rumoured to have earned a \$3 million bonus last year, though the payment may have been spread over three years.

Employers often bumped up the size of bonuses by paying them in gold bars, which were exempt from British national insurance payments. This tax loophole was closed in the November budget.

## Japan lower house approves extra budget

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa won valuable breathing space Wednesday when the full lower house of parliament passed a second supplementary budget for fiscal 1993/94.

The plenary session approved the 709 billion yen (\$6.56 billion) supplementary budget, a parliamentary official said.

Mr. Hosokawa is under pressure to chart a way out of recession. The extra budget will boost the overall budget to 75.25 trillion yen (\$696 billion) for fiscal 1993/94 ending March 31.

Two media polls this week

have shown public support for Mr. Hosokawa declining because of spreading gloom over his government's failure to help pull Japan out of its worst post-war economic slowdown.

Mr. Hosokawa told the budget committee the extra measures represented the best possible means of boosting the stagnant economy and lifting business gloom.

With his seven coalition partners unable to agree, Mr. Hosokawa cannot meet business expectations for more decisive action — like slashing income taxes and helping businesses restructure.

## Key OPEC producers against oil output cuts

DAMASCUS (R) — Leading OPEC producers have decided against emergency action to rescue the weak oil market, OPEC delegates said Wednesday.

They said Saudi Arabia, the largest member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), was among those which had made clear their opposition to either oil output cuts or emergency talks.

The ministers had made their views known Tuesday in consultations with OPEC President Abdullah Al Attiyah of Qatar ahead of an unrelated meeting in Damascus Wednesday of Arab oil ministers.

"OPEC already cut," Sheikh Attiyah told Reuters, referring to its September agreement which set a ceiling below its actual production at that time.

Sheikh Attiyah made it clear that OPEC was placing a burden on non-OPEC producers and would let the market ride out its weakness.

"I would like to see others from non-OPEC to make good signals," he said.

So far, however, non-OPEC producers have given a lukewarm reception to similar OPEC calls in the last month for production restraint, and traders have been looking to OPEC for any signal that it might take action itself.

Oil prices rose by more than 50 cents from around five-year lows Tuesday when Sheikh

Attiyah said he would consult with Arab oil ministers in Damascus.

But prices lost 50 cents once again after he emerged from three hours of consultations and said the ministers had met opposed emergency measures.

The price for January delivery of the North Sea Brent benchmark crude stood at around \$13.50 cents per barrel on Wednesday morning.

"We don't agree on any extraordinary meeting. We say that we have an agreement. We will continue with it," he told Reuters Tuesday night.

Why should we cut? We think we should give the whole agreement time and we are sure that the market will recover."

Libyan Oil Minister Abdullah Al Badri said Tuesday OPEC needed to do something about the weak market and Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani called on oil producers to "deal more realistically" with the weak oil market.

But delegates said OPEC could take no effective action if Saudi Arabia intended to block it.

The ministers Wednesday morning held their annual meeting of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), a group that encourages cooperation among its members but does not set pricing and production policy.

## Lloyd's investors reject pay-off

LONDON (R) — Lloyd's of London offered £900 million (\$1.35 billion) compensation Tuesday in return for an end to litigation over record losses, but the move was rejected by investors in the world's largest insurance market.

The offer, a final attempt by Lloyd's Chairman Davis Rowland to head off a wave of damaging litigation, was swiftly turned down by names' leaders coordinating efforts to obtain around £2 billion (\$3 billion) in compensation.

"We think it's unacceptable and we're rejecting it," said Christopher Stockwell, chairman of the Lloyd's Names Action Group Working Party, which represents some 17,000 names.

Names, individuals who have provided Lloyd's financial backing for 300 years, allege that negligence and mismanagement by Lloyd's agents is to blame for much of the £5.5 billion (\$8.25 billion) of losses announced over the last three years.

The names were drawn to Lloyd's by the tax-free status of the profits they could make but paid heavily for their involvement as there was no limit on personal liability when losses soared after a series of natural disasters in the 1980s.

## Xerox to slash 10,000 jobs, close plants

STAMFORD, Connecticut (AP) — Xerox Corp. said Wednesday it will eliminate more than 10,000 jobs, or about 10 per cent of its worldwide work force, to cut costs and improve productivity.

The copier maker said it also will close and consolidate an unspecified number of its manufacturing plants.

Xerox said the job cuts would be the largest in the company's history. It was the second major work force reduction Xerox has announced in two years. In December 1991, Xerox said it would cut 2,500 jobs.

Xerox chief executive officer Paul Allaire said the restructuring will intensify the company's focus on improving productivity.

"This programme also will improve our ability to drive for increased revenue growth," he said.

The job cutbacks provided another pointed reminder of the painful consequences of the last recession and the sluggishness of the recovery.

The announcement of the job cutbacks at Xerox came a day after the food and tobacco conglomerate RJR Nabisco Inc. announced plans to cut 6,000 jobs, or about 10 per cent of its work force.

Other large consumer products companies including Philip Morris Cos. Inc., Procter and Gamble Co. and Anheuser-Busch Cos. have also announced thousands of job cuts this year as they struggle to boost profits.

Xerox said about half of the 10,000 jobs will be eliminated in 1994, with the remainder being cut over the next two to three years.

Xerox spokesman Judd Everhart said the company has not specifically identified where the jobs will be eliminated, but said everything from clerical to management jobs will be cut.

He said the company has not yet decided how many or which plants will be closed.

### HOROSCOPE

#### FORECAST FOR THURSDAY DECEMBER 9, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** This is a time when you can make interesting decisions and get the right results as well as add to your long term income. A new programme or idea that doesn't garner your attention on first bearing is more useful to you now.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Many new ideas enter your consciousness that are good during the daytime so think out ways to implement them in the latter part of the day, evening.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You have a secret longing which is very good for you to decide to go through with it and then you can bring it to the attention of those who can help.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Think about what friends and acquaintances can be most helpful in aiding you to gain your longings then tonight confer with them about what they can do.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You have right ideas for advancing in the world of outside activity and increase your prestige, after which reconcile with personal wishes.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Get those new plans you have decided upon in good order and method then you will be able to take them to one in authority to get the right support.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You see with clarity how

to handle all practical matters better after which you can find more modern ways to make them even more operative.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Whatever you have in mind regarding associates and better relations with them is very good so present them in a very good and then put in motion later.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You see ways to make your usual routines, duties much more effective so make your mind about them, then let outside partners be aware of them.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Decide upon what you can do to make your special gifts more marketable, then proceed right away to put this course into actual action.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Be alert to some new arrangements you can make at home to delight your own clan, then you will be able to put your special talents at work.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) A day when your morning can be spent arranging to be more productive in the days ahead after which you can thoroughly enjoy practical benefits at home.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Your ideas for making more money are now excellent so decide upon such a course early then you will be able to get out for necessary support.

### FORECAST FOR FRIDAY DECEMBER 10, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Invest some time attending to routine chores. There is an influence that is sudden and dramatic that can lift your spirits now so accept it and be certain to make the best use possible of it.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Think about the best manner in which you can continue to build up your assets and especially by seeking ways to improve the value of your property.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You have the opportunity to go after what you most desire of a personal nature and to gain it by using your best judgment in a energetic fashion.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Now you have some private means which need to be utilised confidentially to gain your secret longings so be on the qui vive for and use these.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) A purposeful friend who is devoted to you will now be available to aid you to get that personal wish that means so much to you.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You have the chance now to get the backing of a prominent person who understands career and civic conditions so you make out better at own vocation.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Take some time out to look into all phases of a new interest of a very sound nature that appeals to you and start slowly activity to obtain it.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) All kinds of obligations can be handled in a most common sense manner by you now and if you are in anyway uncertain, astute businesspersons will aid.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) If you have any material problem facing you and a stubborn associate you will need to use tact and diplomacy to come to a better agreement.

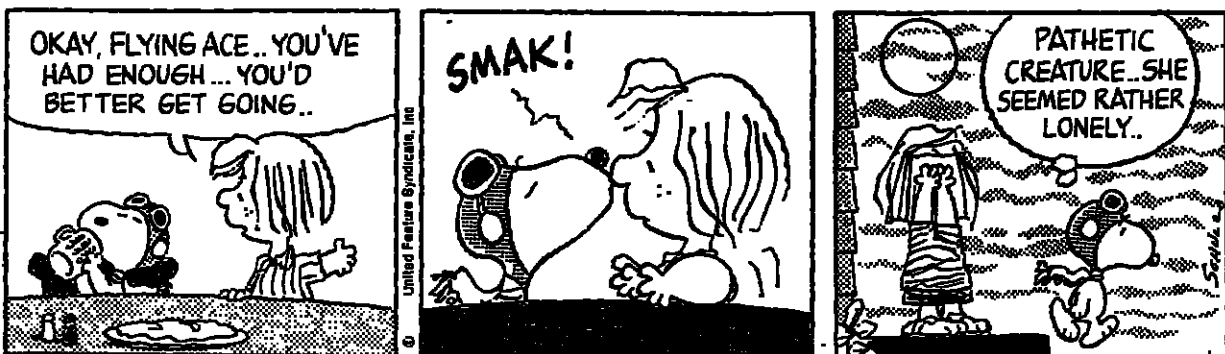
**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Think about what you can do to make your daily duties more efficient and operative and you will build up more security with other persons.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Think about the cost of the present entertainments and recreations which you enjoy the most and you find ways to enjoy them a little less costly.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) A chance is now yours to do something special to make your residence more colourful and on a firm foundation so utilise it to your advantage.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Whatever you have in mind for acknowledging communications, do so without hesitancy and be very factual in answering questions propounded to you.

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## THE BETTER HALF



## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OTHIS  
INHEW  
POYNAC  
HOMIDS

Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

Answers tomorrow

Saturday's Jumble: SWISH DITTO LOCKET MOSQUE

Answer: What the boxer did on laundry day — TOSSED IN THE TOWEL

### THE Daily Crossword by Stanley B. Whitson

ACROSS

- Legend
- Expositions
- Surroundings of home
- Study hard
- Advantage
- Bus, sub, subj.
- Newspaper section
- Daughter of Tardis
- Utah state flower
- Part of D.A.R.
- Home of Lafayette College
- Long-running comic strip
- Guitar relative
- Adorned with certain gems
- Charity
- Retail store
- Allen or McQueen
- Misery
- Basic food items
- Once called
- Gambling game
- Charles and Willard
- Transmit
- Dir.
- (difficulty)
- Lynx, e.g.
- Scott/Dunaway film
- Most sensible
- Biological substances
- Image
- Over
- Scottish singer (O'Keefe)
- Address Moore
- Jessica or Hope
- Cigar ending
- Useful place
- Curves
- Letter opener
- DOWN
- Time keeper?
- Severe
- Swampy one
- Fragrance
- Portals
- Loving
- 5 Most elegant
- 7 "Each tenth one, and..." (Dorne)
- 8 Confederate soldier
- 9 "Ramblin'..."
- 10 Driver course
- 11 Kind of torch
- 12 Trademark
- 13 Participating
- 21 Sort
- 23 "I love..."
- 25 Person
- 26 Level
- 28 Achievement
- 30 Hole-punching tool
- 31 Booby
- 32 Time keeper?
- 34 Severe
- 35 Swampy one
- 38 Concomitant
- 39 Those that get away
- 42 Smoked
- 44 Patted
- 46 Gossip
- 48 Achievement
- 50 Unseals
- 51 Combine
- 52 Bring together
- 53 Greek letter
- 54 Chemical compound
- 55 Faction
- 56 Served perfectly
- 60 Possesses



# aq issues millions of shares; few willing to buy

JHDAD (R) — Iraq is issuing shares of four of its state-owned companies, but few private investors are ready to buy. At the present rate it will take years to sell them, said a source at Baghdad Stock Exchange.

It took about two months for the shares to be sold, but the amount sold was less than one million of more than 150 million shares offered to the public.

The companies being sold to private sector are among the cream of Iraq's state-owned industry. They produce cement, textiles and bricks. Traders fear their shares will lose value when sanctions are eased or lifted in the near future, a dealer in the stock market said.

The government is not floating the shares. It is in fact demanding a price only a few can afford, said a trader who now regrets buying shares of a cement factory for 125 dinars each.

The government's primary aim is to withdraw excess money from circulation to try to strengthen the faltering dinar. But so far it has sold shares worth no more than 30 million dinars.

Fluctuations in the value of the dinar is part of the reason why traders shun buying the shares. After a record 156 to the dollar last month it was trading on Baghdad's black market on Wednesday at about 117.

"The government is asking as many as 125 dinars for a share in the cement factory. It might be a more guaranteed investment if you deposit your money in the bank," one trader said.

The government could only sell 40,000 shares of the 75 million offered for the cement factory and 140,000 of 18 million for a brick firm.

Privatisation gathered momentum when Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, a son-in-law of President Saddam Hussein, was sworn in as the new minister of industry and minerals in September.

Shortly after he took office he announced plans to put a large chunk of Iraq's state-run industry into private hands.

The companies Hassan has in mind to sell include thousands of enterprises producing textiles, cement, clothes, bricks, electrical appliances, food, construction materials and other products.

## Capital formation booms at AFM's primary market

By Samir Shafiq  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Capital formation by public shareholding companies in 1993 was a huge JD 225.5 million, an amount nearly 147 per cent higher than the previous record of JD 91.3 million registered in 1982.

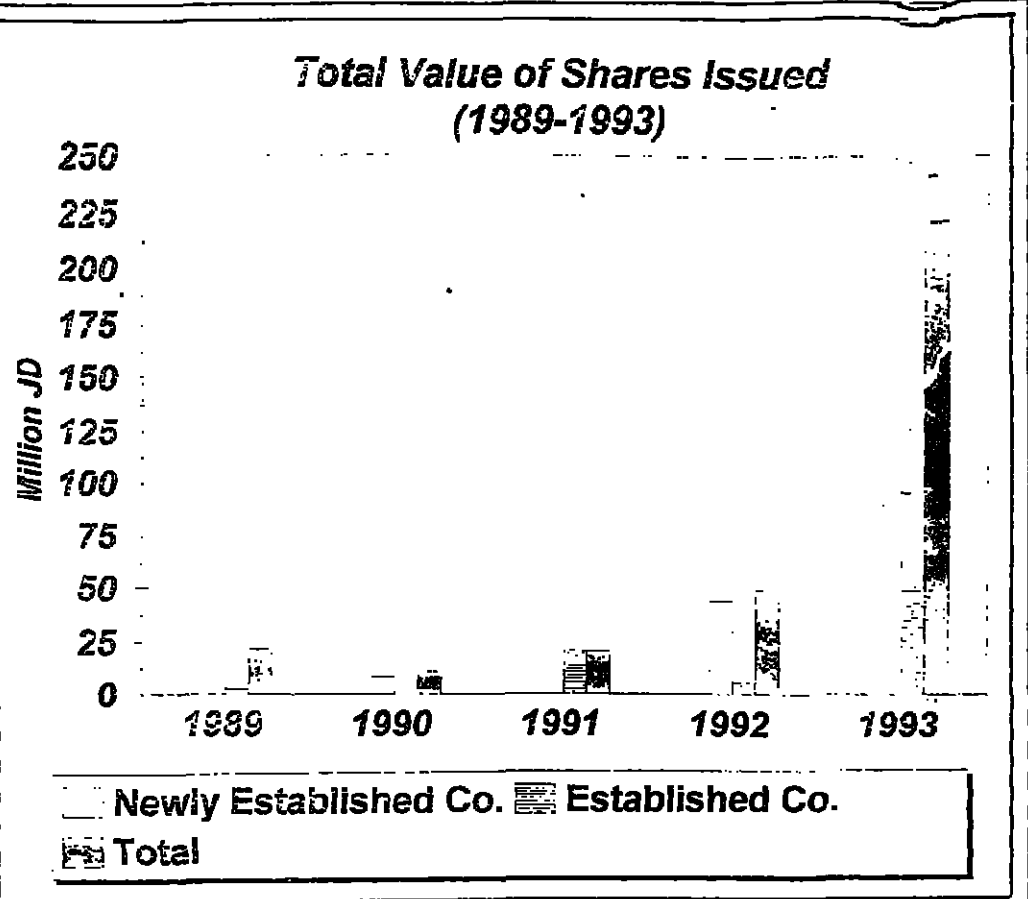
According to the Amman Financial Market's (AFM) Monthly Statistical Bulletin, the volume in 1992 was JD 49.1 million while in 1991 the volume was lower, at JD 20.7 million.

Capital formation is the term used to describe the AFM's primary market, where new issues of shares and bonds are sold for the first time.

During 1993, 41 public share holding companies issued new shares but only 13 were newly established, with a total value of JD 89.7 million, of which JD 69.7 million were for industrial investments initiated by 10 companies. The other three of the newly established companies had a JD 20 million value of shares for investment in the services sector.

The total value of shares issued by 28 established companies was JD 135.9 million, of which JD 74.6 million were for capital increase of seven banks, JD 43.6 million for expansion of 13 industries and JD 17.7 million for other investments by eight service companies.

By adding the value of shares of both the established and the newly established companies, the overall



JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET

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COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OFFERING PRICE	CLASSIFIED PRICE
ABU DHABI	107,610	184,500	187,000	186,000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	46,400	6,150	6,200	6,200
JORDAN POSTAL BANK	10,225	4,200	4,250	4,250
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	6,342	1,310	1,370	1,370
JORDAN TRADING BANK	50,047	3,900	3,980	3,970
JORDAN BANK	6,560	5,650	5,510	5,510
JORDAN TRADING BANK	46,887	2,680	2,690	2,690
JORDAN TRADING BANK	240,740	1,750	1,750	1,750
JORDAN TRADING BANK	5,130	2,950	2,950	2,950
JORDAN TRADING BANK	70,762	4,350	4,350	4,350
JORDAN TRADING BANK	3,840	4,410	4,380	4,380
JORDAN TRADING BANK	617,487	1,840	1,840	1,840
JORDAN TRADING BANK	23,941	2,380	2,380	2,380
JORDAN TRADING BANK	7,120	2,600	2,600	2,600
JORDAN TRADING BANK	26,682	3,400	3,400	3,400
JORDAN TRADING BANK	144,300	3,000	2,950	3,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	1,210	1,250	1,250	1,250
JORDAN TRADING BANK	133,134	2,230	2,240	2,250
JORDAN TRADING BANK	3,120	1,250	1,250	1,250
JORDAN TRADING BANK	3,625	1,580	1,580	1,580
JORDAN TRADING BANK	3,840	1,580	1,580	1,580
JORDAN TRADING BANK	4,244	1,590	1,590	1,590
JORDAN TRADING BANK	3,840	1,580	1,580	1,580
JORDAN TRADING BANK	6,130	1,650	1,650	1,650
JORDAN TRADING BANK	3,840	1,580	1,580	1,580
JORDAN TRADING BANK	2,983	1,420	1,420	1,420
JORDAN TRADING BANK	895	1,420	1,420	1,420
JORDAN TRADING BANK	13,800	12,000	12,000	12,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	36,364	2,120	2,120	2,120
JORDAN TRADING BANK	30,564	2,120	2,120	2,120
JORDAN TRADING BANK	128,160	4,250	4,250	4,250
JORDAN TRADING BANK	174	1,740	1,740	1,740
JORDAN TRADING BANK	28,361	9,800	9,750	9,810
JORDAN TRADING BANK	30,564	7,350	7,350	7,350
JORDAN TRADING BANK	6,970	11,000	11,100	11,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	3,840	8,200	8,200	8,210
JORDAN TRADING BANK	2,588	7,000	7,000	7,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	35,692	3,050	3,050	3,050
JORDAN TRADING BANK	2,165	1,650	1,650	1,650
JORDAN TRADING BANK	30,300	21,270	20,300	20,300
JORDAN TRADING BANK	40,400	6,000	6,000	6,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	9,707	0,270	0,270	0,260
JORDAN TRADING BANK	96,147	2,250	2,250	2,260
JORDAN TRADING BANK	10,400	10,400	10,400	10,400
JORDAN TRADING BANK	11,991	1,580	1,590	1,580
JORDAN TRADING BANK	1,770	5,000	5,000	5,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	10,113	2,350	2,350	2,340
JORDAN TRADING BANK	12,202	1,340	1,340	1,340
JORDAN TRADING BANK	11,499	6,000	6,000	6,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	1,075	4,150	4,150	4,150
JORDAN TRADING BANK	12,475	1,100	1,100	1,100
JORDAN TRADING BANK	4,460	0,390	0,370	0,370
JORDAN TRADING BANK	19,187	1,100	1,100	1,100
JORDAN TRADING BANK	1,841	3,450	3,410	3,440
JORDAN TRADING BANK	1,841	3,450	3,410	3,440
JORDAN TRADING BANK	4,050	1,350	1,350	1,350
JORDAN TRADING BANK	8,050	2,520	2,520	2,520
JORDAN TRADING BANK	121,122	5,140	5,140	5,210
GRAND TOTAL		2,792,487		

The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation

### Announces

That entries for the Theory and Practical Examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music to be held next spring in Amman will be Accepted from 11 to 16 December 1993.

For registration and further information about syllabuses and regulations, please contact the local representative:

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ASSOCIATED BOARD OF THE ROYAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC

## Jordan Times Financial Markets

in co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank

5. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 12/12/93	Tokyo Close 8/12/93
sterling Pound	1.4930	1.4918
Deutsche Mark	1.7033	1.7050
Swiss Franc	1.4600	1.4645
French Franc	5.8610	5.8777**
Japanese Yen	107.48	107.82
European Currency Unit	1.7313	1.7265**

Forex Interest Rates Date: 8/12/1993

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
S. Dollar	3.57	3.43	3.34	3.68
sterling Pound	5.18	5.19	5.06	5.00
Deutsche Mark	6.25	6.00	5.62	5.18
Swiss Franc	4.25	4.06	3.75	3.56
French Franc	6.66	6.43	6.06	5.56
Japanese Yen	2.21	1.96	1.81	1.75
European Currency Unit	6.56	6.25	6.00	5.62

Commodity Metals Date: 8/12/1993

Commodity	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	377.45	7.30	Silver	4.92	0.100

Jordan Bank of Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 8/12/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
S. Dollar	0.7000	0.7020
sterling Pound	1.0430	1.0482
Deutsche Mark	0.4101	0.4152
Swiss Franc	0.4775	0.4797
French Franc	0.1191	0.1197
Japanese Yen	0.6467	0.6519
South Korean Won	0.3659	0.3677
Indonesian Rupiah	0.0416	0.0420
Malaysian Ringgit	0.0416	0.0420

Foreign Currencies Date: 8/12/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
Iranian Dinar	1.8350	1.8610
Banese Lira	0.040375	0.041345
Saudi Riyal	0.1830	0.1863
Ugandan Shilling	2.2250	2.3200
Kenyan Shilling	0.1885	0.1915
Ugandan Shilling	0.2050	0.2220
Nigerian Naira	1.7800	1.8250
E. Dinar	0.1865	0.1915
Yemeni Rial	0.2815	0.3225
Yemeni Rial	1.3445	1.3625

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## Serbs, Muslims hold more peace talks; fighting rages in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serb and Muslim leaders held a second day of peace talks at Sarajevo Airport Wednesday after the Serb side expressed cautious optimism about progress.

The meeting between Bosnia's Muslim Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic and Momcilo Krajisnik, speaker of the Bosnian Serb parliament, was a follow-up to peace negotiations in Geneva aimed at ending Bosnia's 20-month-old war.

"They are basically a continuation of the Geneva peace process," U.N. civil affairs chief Viktor Andreev, who is acting as mediator, told reporters.

Mr. Andreev declined to comment on the progress of the negotiations. But Mr. Krajisnik said after Tuesday's opening session that there were grounds for "cautious optimism" because the talks appeared to have moved forward "from a dead point."

Mr. Krajisnik was quoted by the Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency as saying the two sides had discussed territorial questions including the status of Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, and access for the Muslims to the sea.

The meeting between the

two men was the first since Geneva peace discussions between all three warring parties in Bosnia adjourned last week with no agreement on how to divide the country into Serb, Muslim and Croat states.

The airport talks were held against a background of heavy fighting in Sarajevo, along a Serb-Muslim front line which runs through the centre of the city.

"The fighting was heavy in Grbavica," said U.N. military spokesman Colonel Bill Aikman. "The fighting went on into the evening, well after darkness, which is not the norm in this part of the country."

Col. Aikman said the Muslim-led Bosnian army appeared to have made a small advance but otherwise front lines had not changed significantly.

Fighting was also reported in the central Bosnian town of Gornji Vakuf. "The shelling was fairly heavy in Gornji Vakuf yesterday, which has not been the norm in the last little while," Col. Aikman said.

In the northwestern Bihac enclave, Bosnian government troops appeared to have stalled an advance by separatist Muslims.

Col. Aikman said that in some areas there the Muslim-led army had pushed back forces loyal to local leader and business tycoon Fikret Abdic, who has declared autonomy from Sarajevo.

"It seems to be stalemate now," Col. Aikman said. Fighting in Bihac broke out two months ago when Mr. Abdic broke with Sarajevo because of its refusal to end the war.

Col. Aikman reported heavy shelling around Sapna in northeastern Bosnia, and also in the Muslim town of Olovo, further south, which was pounded all day long Tuesday.

After Tuesday's opening session at Sarajevo Airport, Mr. Silajdzic told Sarajevo Radio: "Most of the time we discussed humanitarian aspects in attempt to improve civilian lives."

"We also discussed territorial matters connected with the Geneva talks. It is certain there are difficulties in territorial matters. These discussions are very difficult."

Mr. Krajisnik was quoted by Tanjug Tuesday as saying he had discussed with Mr. Silajdzic how Sarajevo could be split into twin Serb and Muslim cities, one of the key issues in any peace settlement.

Mr. Krajisnik dismissed spe-

culation that the Serbs might cede to the Muslims two industrial suburbs of Sarajevo, Vogosca and Iljasi, in return for two besieged Muslim enclaves in the east, Srebrenica and Zepa.

He said the two suburbs were not on offer and had not been discussed in the Geneva talks.

Those talks are sponsored by the European Community, which wants the Bosnian Serbs to hand over between three and four per cent more territory to the Muslims than the 30 per cent they were awarded under an earlier peace proposal. In exchange U.N. sanctions against Belgrade would be gradually eased.

Meanwhile Yasushi Akashi arrived in Zagreb late Tuesday to take up his post as special representative of the United Nations secretary-general responsible for the former Yugoslavia and head of the U.N. Protection Force.

Mr. Akashi, from Japan, replaces Norwegian Thorvald Stoltenberg, who will however remain as co-chairman with Lord Owen of the international peace conference on Yugoslavia. Mr. Akashi headed the U.N. operation to restore democracy to Cambodia which completed its task earlier this year.



Gunman kills 4 on New York train

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. — Four people were killed and about 20 others wounded when a gunman went on a rampage with a semi-automatic pistol aboard a commuter train outside New York during the evening rush hour Tuesday, police said. The attacker, identified only as a New York City resident, was in police custody after being wrestled to the ground by three passengers, assisted by an off-duty railway policeman who

arrived at a nearby station to meet his wife. An officer at the scene called it "a horror scene — blood everywhere." Police said they knew of no motive for the shooting spree, which took place just before the garden city station, on Long Island 20 miles (30 km) east of New York City. The photograph shows police officers and emergency workers bring in stretchers to remove the bodies of the victims on the commuter train (AFP photo)

## Kremlin warns regional leaders

MOSCOW (R) — The Kremlin warned Russian regional leaders Wednesday against resisting President Boris Yeltsin's draft constitution and said Interior Ministry troops in some areas were already uneasy over separatist statements.

Mr. Yeltsin's personal chief of staff Sergei Filatov, speaking four days before a referendum on the constitution, said some leaders in the semi-autonomous republics of Tatarstan, Tuva and Bashkortostan were undermining the unity of Russia.

"These three today are stirring up public opinion quite seriously and we will have to react to this because we are getting a lot of calls to react," he said.

"This is especially disturbing to our services, our Interior Ministry troops who serve in these republics and hear these... (views) and are uneasy," he said, but on the basis of mutual benefit.

Mr. Filatov did not specify what action would be taken but said a statement would be made soon, probably tomorrow.

Nikolai Medvedev, adviser

to Mr. Yeltsin on nationalities, also attacked regional leaders opposed to the constitution. "Irresponsible remarks give grounds to say voters should declare there is no room for such leaders in the new Russia," Mr. Medvedev said.

"I think some leaders... who make irresponsible remarks in the election campaign should know they will be held responsible not only before their own consciences but before the state, as state officials."

The comments by the two Kremlin officials demonstrate that Mr. Yeltsin has no intention of veering from the firm line he has shown towards the country's 21 semi-autonomous republics since he crushed parliamentary opposition in Moscow.

The president illustrated the point dramatically this week when he flew to the troubled North Caucasus with his three security ministers. Warning of more instability, he elicited declarations of loyalty from leaders in the area.

Mr. Yeltsin struck all references to the "sovereignty" of the republics from the draft constitution after he abolished parliament and crushed an up-

rising by militant Communists. The word had been included in response to pressure from republics during earlier negotiations by a Constitutional Assembly.

Mr. Yeltsin fears Russia's federation of 89 regions and semi-autonomous republics could follow the same path as the Soviet Union to disintegration if separatist ambitions are not stilled.

But many leaders of republics see in the new constitution an attempt to reduce their status in relations with the second rung of the administrative hierarchy, the regions.

The draft constitution, which critics argue gives Mr. Yeltsin too much power over a weak parliament, will be approved if a half of those who vote say yes to it. Mr. Yeltsin's prospects of overall victory in the referendum appear to hang in the balance.

In the Russian heartland, the constitution is criticised by some for ceding too much powers to the president. In the ethnic-based republics the danger of mass opposition is greater.

## 7 arrested in anti-fur protest at Vogue

PARIS (R) — Seven women were arrested Tuesday when animal rights activists stormed the Paris offices of Vogue magazine to protest against the promotion of fur coats, witnesses said. The seven, including two Americans and a Briton, were among some 30 members or sympathisers of PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), a U.S.-based group which has conducted similar demonstrations in the United States. PETA President, American Ingrid Newkirk, was among the seven detained when they tried to break through a police line outside the magazine's offices. The militants said in advance they would try to enter the offices waving paint-splattered fur coats and steel-jawed leg traps used to capture fur-bearing animals. Officials at Vogue magazine were not available for comment.

## U.N. proclaims 1994 family year

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations Tuesday proclaimed 1994 the International Year of the Family and the United States declared its support for family planning and a women's right to choose abortion. "The family in all its forms is the cornerstone of our world community," Donna E. Shalala, U.S. secretary of health and human services, told the 184-nation General Assembly as speakers called for support for families worldwide. Ms. Shalala said families around the world are threatened by AIDS and by lack of reproductive health care. The Clinton administration, she said, has increased funding for AIDS research and treatment. "We believe that families must have the freedom to choose when and how many children they bring into the world," she said. Referring directly to a woman's right to choose abortion, she said: "We believe that women in the United States should be able to govern their own bodies."

**Spaniards take a spin with gin**  
RABAT (R) — Two Spaniards drove a car for 1.2 km (three quarters of a mile) using fuel and ripe bananas as lubricating oil. Inventor Mariano Roldan Martinez and policeman Jose Luis Diaz want their exploit entered in the Guinness Book of Records. Twelve litres (about three gallons) of gin and 20 kilos (44 lbs) of bananas powered the drive Saturday in Spain's African enclave of Ceuta on the Mediterranean coast, the official Moroccan News Agency (MAP) said. No similar feat is recorded in the Guinness book.

## Policewoman gets \$49,000 in harassment case

LONDON (AFP) — A 31-year-old policewoman of Turkish origin was awarded £32,500 (\$49,000) Tuesday in an out-of-court settlement after accusing her male colleagues of sexual and racial harassment. Sarah Locker, who joined London's Metropolitan Police in 1980, said she was subjected to daily teasing and harassment by the men in her department. They would make racist or misogynist remarks and leave pornographic magazines on her desk. She also charged that she had been harassed from promotion to the detective branch because of her sex and Turkish background. The police conceded that she had been the victim of "unacceptable behaviour," but denied there had been any attempt to block promotion. The out-of-court settlement of her lawsuit included £25,000 in damages and more than £7,500 in legal costs. She is also going to be promoted.

## Clumsy bank robber gets burned

TOKYO (R) — A man's bid to rob a bank with a bottle of petrol and a lighter failed when he set the petrol alight and was himself engulfed in flames. Japanese police said Wednesday. The 55-year-old unemployed man was seriously burned on his face and body and was later reported in stable condition in hospital. Police said the would-be robber entered the bank in Omiya, in the Tokyo outskirts, just before closing time Monday. He threw a bag across the counter and ordered tellers to fill it with cash or he would set the building on fire. When three bank clerks tried to overpower him, he poured petrol on the floor and flicked the lighter. He was badly injured and the three employees suffered minor burns, police said. They said the man could face charges of robbery and causing bodily harm once he recovers from his injuries.

## Gorbachev: 'I will not vote for the Bolsheviks in Kremlin'

LONDON (AFP) — Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Wednesday dismissed Russia's leadership as "Bolsheviks." But said he would vote for a new draft constitution to get his country "over the hump."

A referendum on the proposed constitution, and general elections, are scheduled for Sunday following the October parliamentary revolt to strengthen Moscow's rule over the provinces.

"I know what kind of election this is going to be, verging on a hoax," Mr. Gorbachev

told a press conference after meeting with 40 British business leaders.

"But I still believe we must go and vote and get on with life. I will vote for the constitution with the understanding that this is a kind of public opinion survey, and it will be for the parliament to complete the work."

He said he had not yet decided how he would vote in the general elections.

"But I will definitely not vote for Russia's choice," he said, referring to the leading pro-reform grouping. "I will

not vote for the reactionary fundamentalists, and for those candidates who would like to turn the country back."

"I will not vote for the kind of Bolsheviks we have in the Kremlin now," said the 62-year-old former leader, who now heads a Moscow-based institute that seeks to encourage Russian business ties with the West.

"Let's just get over the hump," he said. "We will be basically electing transitional, temporary bodies and, if the constitution is adopted at the referendum it will be a rather temporary constitution."

Mr. Gorbachev, who lunched later with Prime Minister John Major, said he had been showered with the business cards of people eager to do business with Russia.

"Russia is a country with vast problems," he said. "It needs to modernise, and it needs the cooperation of the West," including huge quantities of machinery and technology whose manufacture promised to create "many jobs in the West."

"It is not for charity that we are inviting business to Russia," he said, "but on the basis of mutual benefit."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### New Ivory Coast president takes over

ABIDJAN (R) — Ivory Coast was calm Wednesday as mourning began for Africa's longest serving leader. Parliamentary Speaker Henri Konan Bedie, who declared himself the West African country's new president, began a hectic day of talks to pick his government. "Ivory Coast is orphaned," read the headline of the government daily *Fraternite-Matin*. It published 20 pages of tributes to President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, who died Tuesday aged 88 after ruling since 1960. Prime Minister Alassane Ouattara's challenge to block Mr. Bedie's ascension to power appeared to be losing momentum. Neither he nor his top aides were at work Wednesday morning. "Bedie proclaimed himself president of the republic," the opposition daily *La Voie* said on its front page. The speaker of parliament was Mr. Houphouet-Boigny's constitutional successor but Mr. Ouattara supporters had argued that he could not take over because the Supreme Court is inoperative. Opposition parties, led by the Ivorian Popular Front, have long campaigned for a broad-based interim government. But 59-year-old Bedie acted decisively to fill the power vacuum Tuesday night. Going on state television to declare himself head of state "with immediate effect."

### Angola talks peace as fighting rages

LUSAKA (R) — Military chiefs of Angola's government and UNITA guerrillas holding peace talks in Zambia discussed Wednesday how to merge their armies as fighting raged at home in world's bloodiest conflict. Few details emerged of what exactly the military leaders, meeting under United Nations auspices, were bagging over. But diplomats monitoring the closed-door talks, part of a larger peace conference called to end Angola's devastating 18-year-long civil war, said the panel had examined what role the U.N. could play in the army's formation. It had also debated how the world body could help train demobilised troops so they could find work. The so-called military commission, which includes Angolan senior army generals Higinio Carneiro and Cirilo De Sa "Ita" and UNITA army chief Arturdo Chenda Pena "Ben Ben," will have to submit its decisions to the full conference for approval.

### Astronauts accomplish all objectives

HOUSTON, Texas (AFP) — Two endeavour astronauts ended a 64-hour spacewalk, the fourth of the space mission, providing the Hubble space telescope with new corrective mirrors and updating its onboard computers. Once Kathy Thornton and Tom Akers finished their tasks, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) had accomplished most of the repairs it had planned for the flawed orbiting telescope. A fifth and final spacewalk early Thursday will replace other electronic equipment on the telescope, and allow scientists to fine-tune and test all the instruments. The main task Wednesday was installing a 290-kilogramme (640-pound) refrigerator-size unit known as Costar. That was designed to compensate for the telescope's incorrectly curved primary mirror which has impeded proper focusing since the hubble was put aloft in April 1990. The unit, together with a camera installed Monday during the third spacewalk, will hopefully restore 90 per cent of the telescope's sight, allowing astronomers to peer at stars 10 times more distant than ever before. NASA said however that it would take two months to know if the new instruments were working properly.

### Chinese plane hijacked to Taiwan

TAIPEI (AP) — A Chinese businessman armed with a surgeon's knife hijacked a Chinese airliner to Taiwan Wednesday, police said. It was the eighth hijacking from China to Taiwan this year. The alleged hijacker surrendered and was arrested, and the MD-82 airliner, which landed safely with 129 passengers and eight crew members, was allowed to leave three hours later. The crisis over hijackings between China and Taiwan was underscored by the disclosure that the aircraft already had been hijacked to Taiwan less than a month ago. Defence Minister Sun Chen said Beijing scrambled four fighter jets in an attempt to stop the Northern Airlines domestic flight from diverting to Taiwan. It was the first time

such action has been reported since the spate of hijackings began in April. Mr. Sun told the legislature that the Chinese fighters "turned back after coming near to the midpoint" that divides Chinese and Taiwanese airspace in the 110-mile (180-kilometre)-wide Taiwan Straits. Tsao Chi-Hsiang, Taiwan's Air Force chief of staff, warned that Chinese warplanes would not be allowed into Taiwanese airspace, "even when they are trying to intercept hijacked planes." Two Taiwanese Air Force jets escorted the airliner to Taipei International Airport, where it landed safely at 2:40 pm. (0640 GMT), authorities said.

### Thai police uncover huge arsenal

BANGKOK (R) — Thai police said Wednesday they had found more than 1,500 tonnes of Chinese-made weapons believed owned by Cambodia's Khmer Rouge guerrillas in a raid on a jungle arsenal near the border with Cambodia. Acting National Police Chief General Pratin Santirapap led a raid on the jungle camp at Wangseam village in Thailand's eastern Chantaburi province, after questioning suspects arrested earlier while trucking a five-tonne cache of weapons from Thailand into Cambodia. Police said the arsenal at Wangseam included 15 130mm artillery pieces, anti-aircraft guns, mortars, rocket launchers, light and heavy machine guns, rifles, hand grenades and millions of rounds of ammunition. Wangseam is across the border from Pailin, the western stronghold of the Khmer Rouge who control about 10 per cent of Cambodian territory and refuse to recognise the Phnom Penh government.

### China wants better ties with France

BEDING (AFP) — The Beijing government wants to "turn the page" and normalise relations as quickly as possible with Paris, but only if France quits selling arms to Taiwan, a Chinese government source said Wednesday. "We are now discussing this question with the French side and it would not be impossible that a French minister would be welcomed in Beijing on the 30th anniversary in January of diplomatic relations between the two countries," the source said. "We want now to turn the page on the past and the anniversary should mark a turning point in Sino-French relations," the source added. France recognised China on Jan. 27, 1964 under then President Charles De Gaulle to become the first Western country to open relations with the Asian Communist giant. A crisis broke out between the two countries at the end of 1992 when France sold 60 of its Mirage 2000-5 jet fighters to Taiwan, which Beijing considers a renegade province that it will eventually recover. The Chinese retaliated by ordering the closure of the French consulate in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou and by blocking French companies from bidding on major works projects.

### Russians turn over ring of U.S. airman

MOSCOW (AP) — The golden class ring of an American Air Force navigator shot down on a spy mission in 1952 was returned to U.S. authorities on Tuesday by a former Soviet sailor who found the body four decades ago. The 1950 military class ring belonging to Capt. John Robertson Dunham was given to the American-Russian commission investigating the fate of U.S. servicemen shot down or believed to have been brought to the Soviet Union. The Soviets shot down dozens of American fliers on reconnaissance flights during the cold war, the most famous Francis Gary Powers in 1960. Few artifacts, however, have been returned, and intensive searching for remains or survivors began only after the Soviet Union collapsed two years ago. Capt. Dunham's ring was retrieved by a sailor who was among the first to reach the crash site near the Kuril Islands north of Japan's Hokkaido Island. Former U.S. Ambassador Malcolm Toon, co-chairman of the POW Commission, thanked Russian officials and the sailor, Vasily Syko, 64, who found the navigator's body amid floating wreckage from the RB-29 reconnaissance plane. Syko said Capt. Dunham was dead when he found him and that there was no sign of the other seven crew members. Capt. Dunham's Tuesday morning. She doesn't yet know when it will be turned over to her.



# Sports

## Man. United romp 15 points clear

MANCHESTER (AFP) — Manchester United turned on the style hammering struggling Sheffield Wednesday 4-0 at Bramall Lane on Wednesday, clearing a 15-point gap at the top of the Premiership.

The United goals came from Mark Hughes, Lee Sharpe and Eric Cantona.

Defeat dropped Sheffield to the bottom four — and they also lost key defender Paul Beesley who was stretched out midway through the second half.

The league leaders were easily ruled by Dave Bassett's description of them as a "rough house team" and answered with fine, flowing football.

They took the lead after 13 minutes when Hughes scored a tenth goal of the season by shooting home a shot past diving Alan Kelly, and the Sheffield goalkeeper was soon working overtime.

In the 27th minute Kelly was picking the ball out of a net.

Gary Pallister, Paul Ince and Hughes combined neatly, with a Welshman delivering a perfectly timed pass to release Lee Sharpe beyond the home defence and the young England forward found his target with a low shot.

Brian McClair should have made it three soon afterwards when Paul Parker's cross picked him out unmarked eight yards in front of goal but he headed wide.

In the second-half Sheffield pushed United back at times and won a number of corners. This encouraged Bassett to pitch fit-again striker Justin Fio into the fray, in place of Andy Scott, in the hope that his extra height and power could pay dividends.

But on the hour, and just four minutes after Fio's introduction, Giggs released Cantona and the French international sped 40-yards into the home area to steer a shot past Kelly which went in off the inside of the near post.

Dennis Irwin and Carl Bradshaw were booked after a squabble on the touchline, before Ferguson sent on Republic of Ireland international Roy Keane in place of McClair.

Within a minute Ward fired in a rasping free-kick to test Peter Schmeichel for the first time and the Danish international duly made a difficult save look easy.

Ince was booked in the 78th minute as the game became

scrappy, but the champions finished with a flourish to almost snatch a fourth goal right on time but Sharpe's shot was saved by Kelly.

Meanwhile Steve Redmond's first goal for Oldham settled a bruising battle against bottom club Swindon at Boundary Park.

The gutsy centre-back, making his 56th appearance, struck six minutes from the end with a superb 20-yard drive to give Oldham seven points from the last nine and complete their first double of the season.

Oldham had gone into a half-time lead when winger Rick Holden paid back a chunk of his recent \$350,000 fee with a super goal.

Holden, who returned to his former club from Manchester City two months ago, curled a 30-yard touchline free-kick past hapless Swindon keeper Fraser Digby in the 11th minute.

In an untidy and often scrappy first-half Swindon had three players booked and Oldham lost two key men with injuries.

Kevin Horlock, Andy Mutch and John Moncur went into the book of Lancaster referee David Allison for reckless tackles.

## Al Wihdat falls to 5th place; Al Faisali leads soccer league

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Top standings have changed significantly after the week of soccer's first division championship as Al Faisali topped the league, while last week's leaders Al Wihdat fell back to 5th position after the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) applied a strict set of rules in dealing with a controversial case.

Titleholders Al Faisali who defeated Al Baqaa 4-0 Tuesday, seem set to consolidate their lead as they meet lowly Al Yarmouk Friday, while fourth-placed Al Arabi, the surprise team of the competition so far, will be aiming for a win over newcomers Al Fuhais in the ninth week of action.

Al Wihdat lost their top standing after the JSF ruled that their 3-0 win over Al Baqaa was invalid as Abdullah Abu Zame'h, a Wihdat player, had played although he had three bookings. The former champions were considered 3-0 losers of the match and thus lost three points in the overall standings while Al Baqaa advanced from last to 10th place.

Al Wihdat protested the ruling citing that their manager was told that Abu Zame'h had two bookings and he thus let the player join the game of Nov. 14. It was not until their match against Al Qadisiyah on Nov. 25 that Al Wihdat learned that Abu Zame'h had three bookings, one of which was issued during an under-19 match.

Apparently, the referee of the under-19 match had only notified the JSF of the booking, which occurred during the October match, only recently, so even if Al Wihdat had known of the bookings, it was not officially registered at the JSF at the time their disputed match against Al Baqaa.

However the JSF cited item "of article 3 of the general rules and regulations which clearly states that the manager of each team shall be responsible for checking the players' bookings and that the federation is not responsible for notifying the teams."

Al Wihdat were dealt another blow when they were held to a goalless draw against Al Fuhais.

The team is set to be affected by this week's results and even more so after the board of directors of Al Wihdat Club suspended the team's top strikers Jihad and Hisham Abdul Munem for unsportsmanlike conduct during matches and training. Jihad got a nine month suspension while Hisham was suspended for six months.

In the week's other surprising result, one time champions Al Ramtha barely managed a 1-1 draw against Al Arabi. Ahmad Subhi gave Al Arabi the lead in the 49th minute, but they could not hold on to win as Faysal Bdeiri was tackled in the penalty box and Mouaffaq Abu Hdeib scored from a penalty shot in the 73rd minute.

Al Ahli continued their latest convincing results and jumped to second place after a 3-0 win over Sahab.

Nart Yaday scored the first goal in the 37th minute. Strikers Amer Wali and Imad Fatahah netted in the second and third goals in the 78th and 80th minutes, as Sahab finished the week bottom-of-the-league.

Al Jazireh surprised Al Qadisiyah when they scored their win first 1-0. The 43rd minute goal by Ismail Al Khatab advanced their standing from 10th to 7th. They will next face Al Baqaa Thursday.

Al Hussein remained in

third place place after a 2-0 win over Al Yarmouk. They were finally relieved to score a win as they had been held to draws in their latest matches against Al Jazireh and Al Baqaa.

Mohammad Shweifer scored the first goal in the 20th minute, and Munib Gharaibeh scored the second goal three minutes before the end of the match.

Like Al Wihdat, Al Hussein will be greatly affected as two top players, Aref Hussein and Gharaibeh, are set to miss their upcoming matches since both will join the Jordanian Peacekeeping Forces in Croatia.

### Standings after 8th week

Team	P	W	GD	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Faisali	7	5	1	1	—	14	3	18
Ahli	8	4	—	2	2	14	7	16
Hussein	8	4	2	1	1	9	3	16
Arabi	8	3	—	3	2	11	12	15
Wihdat	8	4	2	—	2	7	5	14
Qadisiyah	8	1	2	2	3	4	6	9
Jazireh	7	1	—	3	3	7	11	9
Fahes	7	2	1	1	3	5	10	9
Ramtha	4	2	—	1	1	5	2	8
Baqaa	7	2	1	—	4	5	9	7
Yarmouk	6	2	—	—	4	6	9	6
Sahab	8	1	1	—	6	6	13	4

## Becker plans rebirth after birth

MUNICH (AFP) — Boris Becker, who failed to clear the hurdle at the Grand Slam up, admitted that he was going to turn his back on his first-ever season.

"I can never be satisfied with it," he grimaced after being beaten 5-7, 4-6 by talented African Wayne Ferreira.

"I felt fine going into the match but I couldn't do it, I was out of sync," said the German who earned for the event at Nick Bollettieri's academy in Florida.

"This has been my worst season but my mind has been on other things. You can't play top-five in the world when you aren't focused."

Ferreira, who had lost all four of his previous matches against the former German number-one — two of them in year, said: "He didn't give me too much trouble but a lot of problems is to do with confidence. He's not doing the things he used to do."

Becker, who has slumped from number five to number seven in the rankings, commented that he has parted company with his coach Eric Jensen only six months.

"It wasn't easy because we were close friends. But there are hard feelings on my part," said Becker.

Becker, who has now had six coaches in ten years, also recently split with Romanian manager Ion Tiriac and his wife are now handled by German manager Axel Meyer-Wolden, organizer and promoter of the Grand Slam Cup.

Becker will not play again until he travels to France for the Marseille Open in the first week of February.

He has decided to miss the Australian Open in order to be with girlfriend Barbara Feltus who is due to give birth to their first child early in the New Year but he said a final decision on whether or not he will continue with Bollettieri would probably be taken next weekend.

"We shall have more talks and then come to a decision," he said.

Bollettieri is best known as the man who launched the careers of top stars Andre Agassi and Jim Courier, and Monica Seles.

Becker, who had been seeded to play compatriot and world number-two Michael Stich in the semi-finals here, paid a warm tribute to his arch-rival who had defeated him many times in his Davis Cup triumph.

And he did not rule out making himself available for selection for the 1994 competition.

"I cannot say anything right now. First I shall have to have talks with the captain Niki Pillich and with Michael (Stich)," he said.

Becker, who decided not to play for his country in 1993, said of Stich: "He has played very, very good tennis — not just over the last week — but over the last twelve months."

In the \$6 million event Ferreira won Sweden's Stefan Edberg, who saw off American Todd Martin, Edberg, also trying to salvage a bitterly disappointing season won 6-3, 6-2.

Czech Petra Korda also had a straight-sets win over Russia's Alexandre Volkov, winning 6-2, 6-3.

And Spain's French Open winner Sergi Bruguera, ranked

fourth in the world, adapted his clay-court style well to the fast surface and brushed aside Magnus Larsson of Sweden 6-3, 6-4.

Stich, who beat Michael Chang in last year's final, opens his campaign against American Maliwa Washington Wednesday.

Only Jim Courier, who has dropped from first to third since winning the Australian Open in January, is missing from the world's top 16.

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Both vulnerable. East deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ A J 8  
♥ Q J 8 2  
♦ K 3 2  
♣ 9 8 3

**EAST**  
♠ 9 4 2  
♥ A 10 9  
♦ K 6 5 4 3  
♣ 10 8 6 5 4

**South**  
♠ K Q 10 7 6  
♥ 7  
♦ A Q J 9 7  
♣ 9 5

he bidding:  
S: 1♣ Pass  
W: 1♥ Pass  
N: 2♥ Pass  
E: 3♥ Pass

Opening lead: ♠ 9

We are indebted to Dr. George Seikaly's excellent book *More for 75¢* for this deal from the 80 Mexican Nationals. Study only West hand and the auction, then see your opening lead before reading on.

North's heart cue-bid showed a suit raise or better in spades. Even points a limit raise and only three trumps, game rated to be a shoe-in.

so South got there by the shortest possible route.

The author sat West, playing with his favorite partner, Eddie Wolf. Without East's double, West would surely have led the ace of hearts. It would then have taken a diamond shift at trick two to defeat the contract one trick.

The double, however, pointed the way to a better defense. Dr. Rosenkrantz reasoned that by bidding two suits, the second at the three-level, East had to have 10 or 11 cards in those suits. Also, East was unlikely to have doubled four spades with a spade void. Therefore, East had to be very short in the fourth suit, diamonds.

For the opening lead West selected the ten of diamonds, a suit preference signal for the higher of the other two side suits, hearts. East ruffed the diamond, dutifully returned a heart to partner's ace and scored another diamond ruff. The ace and king of clubs completed a two-trick set.

As the great Terence Reese once wrote: "There is no such thing as a blind opening lead; just deaf opening leaders!"

<p><b>PHILADELPHIA</b> Harrison Ford — in <b>PATRIOT GAMES</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p><b>CONCORD</b> <b>CONCORD '1'</b> Clint Eastwood — in <b>IN THE LINE OF FIRE</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 <b>CONCORD '2'</b> <b>For Ever Young</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p><b>PLAZA</b> <b>MADONNA</b> IN <b>BODY OF EVIDENCE</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p><b>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre</b> presents a play entitled: <b>Al Ilm Nuron</b> A popular political comedy Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalal, Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali In addition to other comedians Every night at 8:15 Tickets are sold all day</p>	<p><b>Nabil &amp; Hisham's Tel.: 6251551</b> <b>ANLAN THEATRE</b> The political comedy <b>WELCOME ARAB SUMMER</b> Daily 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes Saturday and Sunday English synopsis available</p>
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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Iran says talks under way with UAE

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's foreign minister, Alai Akbar Velayati, said Wednesday talks were under way with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to solve a dispute over three Gulf islands, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency quoted Mr. Velayati as saying Tehran was holding "direct and indirect talks" with the UAE over the Greater and Lesser Tunbs and Abu Musa, three Gulf Islamic islands that both countries claim as theirs. "Fortunately this understanding exists in the region that Iran is not after expansionism," IRNA quoted him as saying on a visit to Tabriz in northwestern Iran. He said Tehran was "looking forward to receiving a delegation from the UAE to follow up the postponed talks."

## Another foreigner freed in Yemen

SANAA (AP) — Disgruntled Yemeni tribesmen briefly seized another foreigner two days after U.S. diplomat Haynes R. Mahoney was freed by kidnappers from a different tribe, officials said Wednesday. A young German geologist was released on Monday after being held for 2½ days by his captors in Abu Zhabyan, in the Damar province about 100 kilometres south of Sanaa. German Consul Martin Huth identified the man only by his family name of Kuhnert and said he was still a student geologist who had, however, been taken on as an apprentice by Yemeni Hunt, the subsidiary of the U.S. Hunt Oil Co., the main oil producer in Yemen. "They were demanding the release from jail of a member of their tribe. I don't think their demand was met, then they simply released Kuhnert," said Huth.

## Two jailed for arson murders in Germany

SCHLESWIG (AFP) — Two neo-Nazis were given maximum prison sentences here Wednesday for killing three Turkish people by deliberately setting their home alight at Moellin in northern Germany. Michael Peters, 26, was sentenced to life, and Lars Christiansen, 20, was sentenced to 10 years for the murder of a 51-year-old Turkish woman and two young girls aged 10 and 14 who all died in the flames. Eight others were wounded in the blaze which, the court held, the two started on the night of Nov. 23, by throwing incendiary devices into the Turks' living quarters.

## Stich becomes Swiss president for second time

BERN (AFP) — Otto Stich, 66, was elected Swiss president for next year by the country's parliament, in succession to Adolf Ogi. Mr. Stich, a socialist, who also held the rotating presidency in 1988, is the senior member of the seven-member government and also heads the finance department.

## Israeli boats fire at Lebanese fishermen

TYRE (AP) — Israeli gunboats fired on Lebanese fishermen sailing from the southern port city of Tyre before dawn Wednesday. Security sources said a boat was sunk and a fisherman wounded. The victim, Wissam Tewfi Samra, 22, was taken to Jabal Amel hospital, which is run by Tyre's Shiite Muslim community, the sources said. The attack occurred in Mediterranean waters between Tyre and the Lebanese border town of Naqurah just north of Israel's frontier at around 5 a.m. (0300 GMT), the sources said. Israel had banned nighttime fishing off that 19.5-kilometre strip since Palestinian guerrillas attempted to raid northern Israel on water scooters Oct. 9.

## French police raid Tunisian activists

PARIS (AFP) — French police raided the homes of 12 Tunisian Islamic fundamentalists in the Paris area and eastern France on Wednesday seeking evidence of an alleged conspiracy to make attacks on French territory. Police said the swoop was carried out at the request of a Tunisian examining magistrate who issued an international warrant asking France to "attack persons or property" in France. Police searched the home of Tunisian political refugee Salah Karker at Epinay-sur-Seine, north of Paris, and arrested his wife, Samira Labidi, for questioning. Mr. Karker, a leader of the Tunisian fundamentalist movement Al Nahda (rebirth), is currently held under house arrest in a hotel in Brest, western France.

## Gulf defence force to be tripled

MANAMA (AFP) — The Gulf Arab monarchies are set to boost their "Peninsula Shield" joint defence force from 8,000 to 25,000 men, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) secretary general said Wednesday. Sheikh Fahim Al Qassimi, quoted in the Bahraini press, said GCC defence ministers decided on the move last month and it was to be approved by their heads of state at a summit which opens Dec. 20 in Riyadh. Peninsula Shield was formed in 1986 and is based in Saudi Arabia, but was powerless to prevent Iraq invading Kuwait in August 1990. The GCC has been debating its collective defence strategy since the allies ended the Iraqi occupation in February 1991, and boosting the force would be the first practical step.

## Prosecutor rests his case in assassination plot trial

AMMAN (AP) — A military prosecutor Wednesday asked the State Security Court for a guilty verdict in the trial of 10 Jordanians accused of plotting to assassinate King Hussein and seize power.

Major Muhammad Hijazi, presenting his summation in the month-old trial, told the tribunal that prosecution evidence had established the guilt of the accused, two of whom were being tried in absentia.

Mr. Hijazi dismissed defence arguments that the confessions of the accused were extracted under torture and said medical experts who appeared in court could not substantiate the torture allegations.

"I submit that all the defendants be found guilty as charged," said Maj. Hijazi. A guilty verdict in a plot against the monarch carries a mandatory death sentence. All the accused in court have pleaded innocent.

Charges filed against the defendants say they plotted "against the life of the king, sought to rewrite the constitution through violent means and belonged to an illegal organisation."

Under standing court orders, no one involved in the case could be identified by name.

The eight defendants, wearing prison uniforms, looked on as Maj. Hijazi reconstructed the alleged plot to assassinate King Hussein during a graduation ceremony at Muta University, a military college in

south Jordan.

According to Maj. Hijazi, five Muta students, who were "deeply religious" and who resented the pro-Western policies of the government, were enlisted by the puritan Hezb Al Tahrir, or Islamic Liberation Party, to carry out the plot.

Hezb Al Tahrir, which was established in the West Bank in 1951 and set up a branch in Jordan a year later, does not recognise any existing Arab governments and seeks the establishment of an Islamic caliphate through revolutionary means.

The prosecutor said four Hezb Al Tahrir leaders, including the two fugitives, had hatched the assassination plot and they enlisted the Muta students through an ex-student who was serving as a member of the Royal Escort Unit, which follows the Monarch round the clock.

The students, according to Maj. Hijazi, were ardent admirers of Lieutenant Khalid Al Islambouly, who assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat during military parade in Cairo in October 1981.

The accused students, all in the 20-25 age group, were supposed to have attended a June 26 graduation ceremony presided over by the King and they planned to open fire on the Monarch when he was inspecting a guard of honour, Maj. Hijazi said.

They were arrested before the ceremony took place.

## Prince Hassan visits bridge, APC plant

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan visited the King Hussein Bridge Wednesday.

The Prince inspected the security and police stations at the bridge, urging employees to facilitate procedures for the visitors and the arrivals. He also welcomed some of the visitors from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Later, Prince Hassan visited the Arab Potash Company (APC) plant near the southern tip of the Dead Sea accompanied by the chairman of Japan's Mitsubishi conglomerate.

The Prince chaired a meeting at the plant for the heads of local government departments in the southern regions and urged them to coordinate efforts to boost development in their respective regions.

APC Director Suleiman Hawari presented a review of the company's activities and exports of potash.

Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf outlined Jordan's investment policies and its measures to attract investors from abroad.

Dr. Faysal Khasawneh, Aqaba Region Authority president, talked about the development of the Aqaba seaport and the Wadi Araba region.

Dr. Umayya Touqan, director of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) reviewed the situation in the market and measures to attract businesses to participate in the market's activities.

The Crown Prince and the Mitsubishi chairman also toured the different parts of the APC plant.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday meets with workers at the Arab Potash Company plant in Ghor Safi (Petra photo)

## PLO no nearer to opening aid taps

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United States has implicitly served notice on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat not to expect international assistance unless he revamps some of the economic bodies he has set up to supervise the reconstruction of the Palestinian economy, informed sources said Wednesday.

It was the first known account of any Western official openly taking up the contentious issue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman, who is accused by some of his own people of favouring loyalists rather than qualified experts while making key appointments in the economic sector.

The warning was conveyed to Mr. Arafat by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during their meeting in Amman Monday, the sources said.

Mr. Arafat, long known for his skilful manoeuvring, replied that the demand consti-

tuted "political interference" in the affairs of the Palestinians and was not acceptable, the sources said.

The PLO chairman also questioned an assertion by Mr. Christopher that the U.S. stand was supported by Europe, they said.

"Let me have one European statement to this effect," Mr. Arafat was quoted as telling Mr. Christopher during the meeting, held at the American ambassador's residence.

Both Mr. Christopher and Mr. Arafat referred to the issue in a post-meeting press conference on Monday, but their comments gave little insight into what transpired during the talks.

"Credible structures to receive the assistance need to be put in place, and the chairman enlightened me about the structures that he has been setting up to receive and handle the assistance," Mr. Christopher said. "So it was a useful meeting, particularly in this respect."

"It was useful as far as exchange of views was con-

cerned, but little else in advancing Arafat's quest to get the flow of aid moving," said a senior PLO official.

Mr. Arafat, in his comments at the press conference, said: "I would also like to thank Secretary Christopher for his efforts regarding his work with World Bank and the donors who are trying to help the Palestinian people to start their new lives and to build infrastructure that was totally destroyed over the years."

"The meeting was useful, positive and fruitful."

An international donors' conference held on Oct. 1, two weeks after Israel and the PLO signed their groundbreaking autonomy agreement in Washington, pledged more than \$2 billion in two years to help the economic development of the occupied territories.

But no allocations have been made yet since the composition of a Palestinian economic development council, headed by Mr. Arafat himself and succeeded by Farouk Kaddoumi, the Palestinian "foreign minis-

ter," is not acceptable to the donors, who are insisting on professional and qualified economic experts to do the job.

The World Bank, which will coordinate the assistance, has not released an urgent tranche of \$50 million in loan as "start-up" funds for the PLO, diplomats said.

The PLO chairman left Jordan immediately after Monday's meeting and turned up in Germany the next day on a prearranged visit as part of a globe-trotting he has undertaken after signing the Sept. 13 autonomy accord with Israel (Germany was the 18th country that Mr. Arafat visited since Sept. 13).

During his visits to European countries, Mr. Arafat has been repeatedly complaining of "indirect political pressure" and "efforts to meddle with Palestinian political independence," diplomats say.

It was not immediately known if any of the European leaders was sympathetic to his grievances and willing to open the taps of assistance in the

present structure of the bodies he has set up.

Informed sources in Paris, where the donors met again on Nov. 1 and where the PLO and Israel are discussing economic cooperation, said European countries indeed wanted more PLO "accountability" for the international assistance but had not made the point forcefully to Mr. Arafat.

No American sources were available to confirm the account of the Arafat-Christopher meeting, but PLO officials said in Tunis that the net outcome of the meeting was a stalemate.

Mr. Arafat told some of his close confidants after the meeting that the talks with Mr. Christopher were "disappointing," the sources said.

"He may have come out unscathed in the verbal battle with Christopher, but the fact remains that the PLO is no longer near receiving assistance than it was before the Monday meeting," said a senior PLO official based in Tunis.

## Heath seeks to free Britons held in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Former British Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath, backed by his government, headed for Baghdad on Wednesday to try and win freedom for three Britons jailed in Iraq.

British embassy political officer Mark Le Goy said in Amman Mr. Heath left on the 12-hour trip to Baghdad from Amman early on Wednesday. He said the families of the three prisoners had asked him to try and help secure their release.

A Baghdad diplomat said on Wednesday Iraq may release the three jailed Britons over the weekend.

"I have some indication that something may happen during the weekend," a European diplomat said when asked about prospects of the prisoners' release.

"I hope they will be with their families before Christmas," the diplomat said. An official at the Iraqi Information Ministry, reached by telephone from Amman, said Mr. Heath was due to meet with officials in Baghdad on Thursday. He declined to reveal who would receive Mr. Heath.

Reports in the British media said Mr. Heath hoped to meet

with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to appeal for the release of Paul Rida, Michael Wainwright and Simon Dunn.

Mr. Rida, 33, from Walthamstow in East London, was working in Kuwait when he was believed to have lost his way in the desert near the poorly marked Kuwait-Iraq border in June last year.

He was arrested when he sought help from an Iraqi checkpoint and was later sentenced to seven years in prison.

Mr. Wainwright, 42, from West Yorkshire in northern England, was arrested and sentenced to 10 years in prison after crossing into Iraq from Turkey while on a cycling trip from Australia to Britain May last year.

Mr. Dunn, 23, who lived in Kuwait, was arrested by Iraqi border guards at the port of Umm Qasr in June this year and sentenced to eight years.

Senior Arab diplomats said chances were "even" that Mr. Heath would be successful. They noted President Saddam had made it a policy to respond positively to such appeals if they came from head-of-government or head-of-state level officials.

The diplomats said President Saddam was particularly an-



Edward Heath

xious that senior government leaders deal with him directly — part of his bid to rehabilitate himself into mainstream international politics and secure an end to the 40-month-old U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

President Saddam released three Swedes in response to an appeal from King Carl Gustav and a Filipino after a direct message from President Fidel Ramos.

According to Arab diplomats, Iraq has told Germany that a German student, identified as Kay Söndemann, serving an eight-year term since early this year for illegal entry, could be released if Chancellor Helmut Kohl were to send a direct message to President Saddam.

## Thatcher cannot remember if laws broken for Iraq

LONDON (AFP) — Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Wednesday was grilled on her government's decision in 1988 to ease the way for arms sales to Iraq.

She defended the decision, but insisted she was not aware of it at the time.

"It may have been mentioned to me by one of my secretaries," she told an official inquiry into British arms shipments to Iraq, aided by the government, in violation of an embargo.

"I have no recollection if it was," Mrs. Thatcher's testimony, the first by a former British prime minister before such a commission, was in sharp contrast to that of some of her former mandarins.

Last month civil servant Eric Beston told the commission Mrs. Thatcher had been given confidential reports in 1989 detailing Iraq's attempts to procure weapons in Britain.

And in October a senior Ministry of Defence official told the commission Mrs. Thatcher had explicitly approved export licences for machine tools sent to Iraq by the British firm Matrix Churchill, despite warnings that the tools would be used to manufacture weapons.

Months of testimony has in-

dictated at least three junior ministers in the Thatcher government had relaxed guidelines drawn up to prevent defence equipment from reaching Baghdad and had aided and abetted British exporters.

Mrs. Thatcher, forced to resign in November 1990, flushed on the witness stand as 42-year-old government barrister Presley Baxendale pressed her on why it took 11 months for the changed guidelines on exports to trickle out.

"Do you think it satisfactory...?" she asked.

"The guidelines were coming out," said a flustered Thatcher.

"We come back to the same question again and again," insisted Mr. Baxendale.

"The policy was placed on record and I think with respect we have already dealt with the gap," said Mrs. Thatcher.

But when challenged by Mr. Baxendale that there was no opportunity to publicly debate policy that was public, the former premier finally conceded:

"It might have been better if we had published earlier."

The Scott inquiry, ordered by John Major who succeeded Mrs. Thatcher, is the result of a scandal that broke 13 months ago during a trial of three directors of Matrix Churchill

## COLUMN

## Charles insists he will become king

LONDON (R) — Prince Charles said Wednesday he was determined to become king and would not let a failed marriage or reports of an alleged adulterous affair deprive him of the British crown. Prince Charles, responding to criticism that his stormy love life made him unfit to be king, authorised royal aides and a government minister to express his firm intention to succeed Queen Elizabeth on the throne. Wednesday's popular newspapers all trumpeted the royal declaration "I will be king" and reported the 45-year-old heir apparent was not prepared to let affairs of the heart stand in the way of the throne he so desperately desires. "Crown not Camilla Charles has made his choice," blared the Daily Mirror, claiming the prince had decided to sacrifice his long-standing love for brigadier's wife Camilla Parker Bowles. A close friend of the prince, Food Minister Nicholas Soames, was enlisted to spread the message of defiance through the press after a day of avid debate about whether a divorced Prince Charles would have the moral authority to be king. "To be king is not an ambition — it is a duty. That duty will pass at the appropriate moment to the Prince of Wales," Mr. Soames, a former royal equerry, told the popular press. "It is not like waking up in the morning and saying I want to be an engine driver. It simply does not work like that." Doubts over the prince's accession burst into the front pages this week after his estranged wife Princess Diana announced she was retreating from public life — taken as a clear sign that divorce was now inevitable. Britain was left to ponder the prospect of a divorced king and alleged adulterer becoming head of the Church of England, which preaches the sanctity of marriage.

## Diana makes high-profile visit to Belfast

BELFAST (R) — Britain's Princess Diana arrived in Belfast Wednesday on an unannounced visit to Northern Ireland just days after her announcement of a retreat from public life by the end of the year. The visit placed Diana firmly back into the limelight at a time when her estranged husband Prince Charles was struggling to counter a growing public debate over his fitness to become king. Officials in Belfast said Princess Diana flew into Belfast mid-morning and planned to visit a hospital in the eastern part of the city and attend a reception held by a marriage guidance counselling organisation. In London, Buckingham Palace said the visit was an official one and had been arranged months in advance. Such visits are never announced in advance for security reasons.

## 'Gorbymania' gets another airing

LONDON (R) — Cheering crowds lining city streets, lunch with Margaret Thatcher, a fire-side chat with the British prime minister — it's been just like old times for Mikhail Gorbachev this week. The former Soviet president may have been stripped of power but Britain remains faithful to the legend of Mr. Gorbachev, father of glasnost and friend of the West. Britons wallowed in Gorbymania when he last visited Britain in July 1991, mobbing him wherever he went. Just one month later a failed right-wing coup promoted the cause of rival Boris Yeltsin and Mr. Gorbachev's grip on power slipped beyond recall. On Sunday he returned to Britain for a six-day tour that takes in everybody who is anybody in Britain and should give Gorbymania a boost. By the time he flies out Friday, Gorbachev will have given lectures, met Prime Minister John Major, been star guest at a parliamentary reception and been given the Sir Winston Churchill Award for his contribution to Middle East peace. In London Tuesday, he met another political icon of the 1980s, former Prime Minister Thatcher, for lunch. Lady Thatcher's hatred of communists was one of the constants of British foreign policy in her 11 years in power that ended in 1990. But even the iron lady fell for Mr. Gorbachev's charm. He was not only the symbol of a democratic Russia, he also knew how to behave and was aware of the value of photo opportunities.